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Congress dividing people on caste and religious lines: Modi

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Swachh Bharat ignores the real problem, says Jairam Ramesh

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India registers a record innings victory over West Indies at Rajkot

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NEARBY

SP students' wing bags top post in AU elections

LUCKNOW  
The students' wing of the Samajwadi Party grabbed the posts of president and joint secretary in the Allahabad University Students' Union elections, results for which were declared in the early hours of Saturday.

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# EC sets month-long poll schedule for 5 States

Two-phase voting in Chhattisgarh; results on December 11

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Saturday announced that the Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana will be held from November 12 to December 7. The results for all the five States will be declared on December 11.

The model code of conduct came into effect in four States – Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Rajasthan – immediately. The guidelines are already in place in Telangana, as directed by the Commission on September 27, following the premature dissolution of the Assembly.

Chhattisgarh goes to the polls first, with voting scheduled in two phases. The 18 Naxal-affected constituencies in the southern part of the State will go to the polls on November 12, while 72 other constituencies will be covered in the second phase on November 20, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) O.P. Rawat said.

In Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram, the elections will be conducted on a single day – November 28. Finally, Rajasthan and Telangana will hold elections on December 7, also on a single

## Battle lines are drawn

The EC on Saturday announced the dates for the Assembly elections in five States. Also, bypolls to three Lok Sabha seats and two Assembly seats in Karnataka will be held on November 3



**Chhattisgarh**  
■ Phase 1 (18 seats) **Nov. 12**  
■ Phase 2 (72 seats) **Nov. 20**

**Madhya Pradesh**  
230 seats **Nov. 28**

**Mizoram**  
40 seats **Nov. 28**

**Rajasthan**  
200 seats **Dec. 7**

**Telangana**  
119 seats **Dec. 7**

**Date of counting**  
**Dec. 11**

The model code of conduct came into force from the time of the announcement

day.

Teams from the Election Commission will visit Mizoram and Telangana within the next 15 days to review the preparedness.

The CEC refused to comment on allegations by the Congress that it had delayed the announcement of schedules due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public rally in Rajasthan earlier in the day.

### ‘Free to complain’

“Politicians are political creatures and they have to see politics in everything, because of their political nature. We have to make no comments on that,” said Mr. Rawat. He said if someone thought that concessions had been made, they were free to complain.

Apologising to the media

for the delay, Mr. Rawat cited several reasons. He said October 8 had earlier been fixed for publication of electoral rolls in Telangana.

However, on Friday, the Hyderabad High Court directed the Commission to not to issue the list before it was shown to the Court.

The officials feeding data into the software used for updating the list were also facing issues with the Telugu transliteration.

The EC held a meeting with C-DAC engineers who said it would take two-three days to resolve the problem.

Therefore, the Commission decided to publish the electoral rolls on October 12, after it was submitted to the High Court.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

## Picking out silent ghosts in the deep

Diver-activists are removing abandoned or lost fishing nets that trap sea life

ASWATHI PACHA

CHENNAI

It's a lazy Sunday morning, but not for Suneha Jagannathan. With over 3 kg of diving gear, she is out on a mission – to collect ‘ghost nets’.

Diving to depths of 30-50 m, Ms. Jagannathan, CEO of Puducherry-based Temple Reef Foundation (TRF), helps contain a growing and insufficiently studied threat to marine ecosystems.

Ghost nets are classified under Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), which includes lines, traps, hooks, dredges and buoys.

Ghost nets can kill marine wildlife, including vulnerable species, and destroy the benthic ecosystems that exist at the lowest level of a body of water. The problem has been worsening with the global expansion in fishing operations, and the availability of more durable gear.

High quality synthetic nets can last in the oceans for centuries, and lead to



**Snares in oceans:** Ghost nets can kill marine wildlife, including vulnerable species. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

micro-plastic ingestion by aquatic life.

A 2010 Marine Fisheries Census by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) said there were about 1,30,000 gill-nets and drift nets in operation in India.

### Research needed

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in a 2009 study titled ‘Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear’, states that almost 6,40,000 tonnes of all fish-

ing gear (approximately 10% of the total usage) is lost or discarded in our oceans annually, in bad weather or when nets get stuck to the rocky bottom.

### SUNDAY SPECIAL

Additionally, “the economic impacts of ALDFG are complex and have not been estimated systematically but include incremental costs associated with fishing operations, compliance, accidents at sea, search and rescue and re-

covery,” says a 2016 submission on ‘Marine Debris, Plastics and Microplastics’ by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to the the UN Secretary General. The report also states, “Likewise, the impacts on biodiversity have not been addressed systematically.”

### Report submitted

“We studied four different locations with the help of fishermen from Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and submitted a report to the FAO in April 2018,” said Dr. Saly N. Thomas, Principal Scientist, Department of Fishing Technology, Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi.

The results of this research have not been made public yet.

“The government is also in the process of preparing a national ghost net management policy,” Dr. Thomas added.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

## Akhilesh also walks out on Cong. in M.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

After the Bahujan Samaj Party's decision against an alliance with the Congress, the Samajwadi Party also distanced itself from the Opposition party in Madhya Pradesh, which goes to the polls next month.

Talking to reporters here on Saturday, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said he would not wait any longer for the Congress to take a call on an alliance.

Mr. Yadav said, “We will definitely talk to the BSP.”

He said the Congress had not taken a clear stand on an alliance and it was no longer feasible for the SP to wait.

“The Congress made us wait a lot. For how long will we wait? The dates are going to be declared. We won't wait any longer,” Mr. Yadav said.

### In talks with other party

The SP was already in talks with the Gondwana Gan-tantra Party, he said.

While there could still be scope for manoeuvring,

Mr. Yadav's message to the Congress comes just days after BSP chief Mayawati declared that she would not contest the Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in an alliance with the Congress. She has earlier declared she would contest the polls in Chhattisgarh in alliance with Ajit Jogi's party.

The Congress, the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party have been in talks for a grand alliance for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

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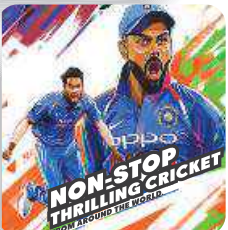
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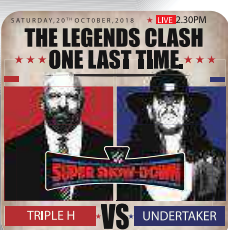
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Issued in Public Interest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
RATLAM (M.P.)

Addressing a rally at Ratlam in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, BJP president Amit Shah once again described illegal immigrants as “termites” and promised to drive them out.

“(Former Prime Minister) Lal Bahadur Shastri had given the slogan ‘Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan’. While you (farmers) feed the people, they (soldiers) guard our borders. But infiltrators are like termites who eat away at the country's security. They need to be removed,” Mr. Shah said.

Four million people were excluded from the final draft of the National Register of Citizens in Assam and all those living illegally in the country would be evicted, he added.

“We will drive out each and every infiltrator. The BJP will not allow a single infiltrator to stay. For us, vote bank is not important, the country's security is,” Mr. Shah said.

The BJP chief had earlier compared illegal immigrants to termites at a rally in Rajasthan last month.

## Rally vs rally in Punjab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The ruling Congress and the Opposition Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab are all set to hold rallies in each other's strongholds on Sunday in an attempt to showcase their political strength.

While the Akali Dal will hold a protest rally in Patiala – the home constituency of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh – the Congress is organising a rally in Lambi's Killianwali over the “sacrilege” issue. Lambi is the stronghold of the Akali Dal and is currently represented by former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal in the Assembly.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 7



## IN BRIEF

**Farmers hold protest rally against Centre**

GHAZIABAD Scores of farmers of Modinagar led by RLD vice-president Jayant Chaudhary held a rally on Saturday against the BJP government. Addressing the rally, Mr. Chaudhary said the BJP government is anti-farmer. He said the farmers were brutally beaten by the Delhi Police on the orders of Central government on October 2 during a protest march in New Delhi. He said, "The whole country has witnessed the cruel act of police on the birth anniversary of messenger of peace and non-violence Mahatma Gandhi". PTI

**Ethiopian man held at airport with fake ticket**

NEW DELHI An Ethiopian man was apprehended at the airport here for allegedly using a fake ticket to enter the terminal area, a senior official said on Saturday. Z.M. Shibishi was intercepted by Central Industrial Security Force personnel as he was about to leave the Terminal-3 building of the Indira Gandhi International Airport on Friday, the official said. PTI

# CM seeks support from non-BJP States

Writes to CMs over 'draconian' amendments to Electricity Act

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Terming them 'draconian' and alleging that they would 'adversely affect a common man' Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has written to all his counterparts heading non-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) States against the proposed amendments to the Electricity Act, 2003. The proposed amendments, Mr. Kejriwal alleged, would lead to concentrate 'all powers' in the electricity sector in the hands of the Centre, lead to steep and immediate hikes in power tariffs and 'hasten privatisation of electricity all over the country' to favour 'a few companies.'

**Immediate steep hike**

"I wish to draw your kind attention to the proposed amendments in the Electricity Act, 2003, circulated to all States/UTs... seeking comments on the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments to the Electricity Act, 2003, are a matter of serious concern," the Chief Minister wrote. "[The amendments] concentrate all powers in elec-

I wish to draw your kind attention to the proposed amendments in the Electricity Act, 2003, circulated to all States/UTs... seeking comments on the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments to the Electricity Act, 2003, are a matter of serious concern

ARVIND KEJRIWAL  
Delhi Chief Minister

tricity sector in the hands of Central government to the exclusion of State governments... Will lead to immediate steep hike in electricity tariffs," Mr. Kejriwal argued further.

Mr. Kejriwal has written to his counterparts - to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Andhra CM N. Chandrababu Naidu, Kerala CM P. Vijayan, Karnataka CM HD Kumaraswamy, Puducherry's V. Narayanasamy, Tamil Nadu CM EK Palaniswami, Mizoram CM Lal Thanhawla, Punjab CM

Capt. Amarinder Singh, Telangana CM K. Chandrababu Naidu, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, and Sikkim CM Pawan Chamling.

**Hasten privatisation**

"It appears that the motive of the Central government is to impose and hasten privatisation of electricity all over the country and to favour a few companies. By concentrating all powers with itself, the Centre will be able to do that," Mr. Kejriwal stated.

Terming it 'an extremely critical matter' which had national repercussions, the Chief Minister said, "We all need to get together to ensure that the Central government does not succeed in getting this amendment Bill passed in Parliament. We may also give it wide publicity and make people aware of how these amendments will adversely affect a common man."

**Discuss in detail**

Mr. Kejriwal added he would like to personally meet and discuss the issue in detail with each of his addressees at their earliest convenience.

## 'Every vote to Cong. will strengthen BJP'

Kejriwal holds meeting with RWAs of the East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Each vote for the Congress in Delhi in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls would be a vote for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal told Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) of the East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, during the same interaction, took live questions and grievances from the audience related to civic and governance issues, and gave directions to resolve several of them, the party claimed in a statement.

**Increased allocation**

"The Aam Aadmi Party believes strongly in the power and potential of decentralisation as envisioned for RWAs. This dialogue between the government and RWAs will help resolve many problems," the AAP's East Delhi Lok Sabha incharge Atishi Marlena said.

"While the AAP government has notched up several achievements in electricity, water, power and education sectors, there is still some work to be done," she said in relation to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Meanwhile, the AAP national convener also encour-



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses a meeting with the RWAs in East Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

aged the RWAs to adopt local parks and gardens to increase the green cover in the city. He praised the role of the RWAs in ensuring the maintenance of parks in societies. In keeping with their demands, the government has, he announced, decided to increase allocation to RWAs by 10%. The RWAs must keep up the good work of maintenance, he said, as the civic bodies were never going to step up.

Mr. Kejriwal also blamed the BJP-controlled civic bodies for 'East Delhi's garbage crisis' which, he alleged, was 'a direct result of municipal corporation's corruption and inefficiency'.

"BJP-run civic bodies are a den of corruption. The money for salaries of sanitation

workers is being diverted to contractors. The AAP government has released ₹770 crore to the East body so far this year... Sanitation workers are being penalised for no fault of theirs by the BJP

Alleging that the BJP was 'campaigning for the Congress in Delhi to split AAP's votes, Mr. Kejriwal said had the AAP had seven MPs from Delhi, the BJP government at the Centre would not have been able to hike metro fares.

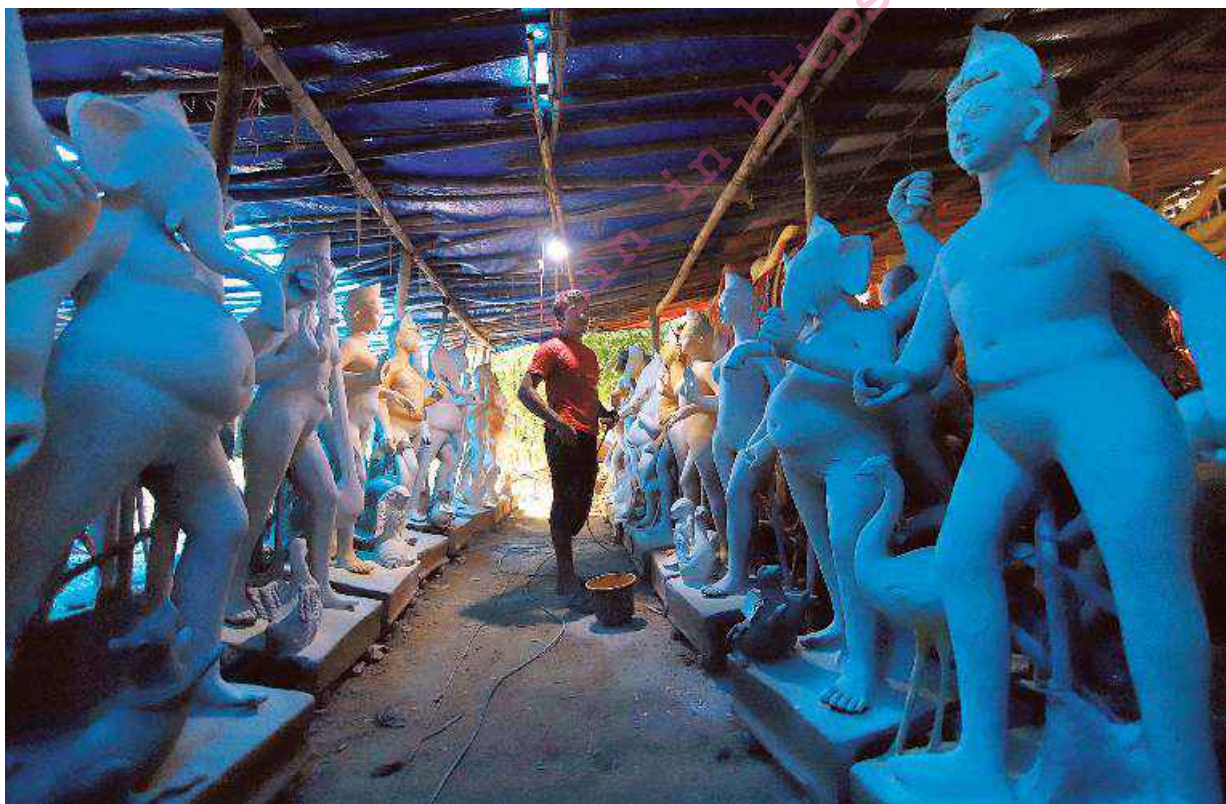
"We would not have let them unleash the sealing drive. I urge you to not repeat the mistake made in

BJP-run civic bodies are a den of corruption. The money for salaries of sanitation workers is being diverted to contractors. The AAP government has released ₹770 crore to the East body so far this year... Sanitation workers are being penalised for no fault of theirs by the BJP

2014. AAP is the only party that has worked for your welfare... When I talk to people they say Modi has ruined us, he introduced demonetisation, GST and unleashed sealing. Our business is ruined, but what is the choice? We do not want to vote for Rahul Gandhi," the CM said.

The only 'real alternative' that the voters of Delhi had, Mr. Kejriwal argued, was the AAP. "There are a huge number of people who want to defeat Modi. But I caution them that they should not make the mistake of voting for the Congress. Every vote to the Congress will strengthen the BJP in Delhi," he added.

## Bringing to life



Artisans at work ahead of Durga Puja, at Chittaranjan Park in the Capital on Saturday. • VARUN GUPTA

## Maken writes to Kejriwal urging reduction in fuel VAT

Says prices should be levelled with rates during Cong. regime

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Ajay Maken wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday urging him to reduce the VAT on petrol and diesel to "provide relief" to the people of the Capital.

Mr. Maken, further demanded that the prices should be reduced and levelled with the rates during the Congress regime in the Capital.

Stating that the VAT on petrol and diesel in December 2013, was ₹4.3 per litre and ₹6.45 per litre respectively, Mr. Maken in his letter to the Chief Minister said, "Under your government, the VAT on petrol per litre is ₹22.68 and on diesel its ₹12.45 per litre as on October



Ajay Maken

4. That means that the citizens of Delhi have to shell out an extra amount of ₹8.38 per litre of petrol and ₹6 per litre on diesel."

Delhi Pradesh Mahila Congress chief Sharmista Mukherjee said, "The Congress party has been repeat-

edly asking the Modi government to bring petroleum products under GST, but it has not been done and as a result, petrol and diesel are cheaper in Noida and Haryana than in Delhi, as different States have varying tax structures."

**Costly affair**

Stating that the Delhi Value Added Tax (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2015, had proved "costly for the citizens of Delhi", Mr. Maken added, "All three, AAP government, Union Home Ministry and the representative of the Central government in Delhi passed and approved a Bill within an excessive short span of 10 days without considering the detrimental effect it was going to have for common citizens of Delhi."

## Fuel price: State BJP wants CM's intervention

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Accusing him of politicising and 'lying' on the issue, State BJP president Manoj Tiwari on Saturday demanded Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's intervention in reducing fuel prices in the Capital.

Addressing a press conference on what he alleged was the 'insensitivity' of the Delhi government on the issue of high fuel prices, Mr. Tiwari accused the Chief Minister of 'misleading the people'.

"The reason for the increase in price of oil in our country is due to increase in the price in the international market but the Chief Minister of Delhi is playing dirty politics on it. Delhi government increased VAT from 15% to 27% which is much higher than the rate in other States," Mr. Tiwari alleged.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has given relief of ₹2.50/litre for the 125 crore people of the country but it is unfortunate that Mr. Kejriwal only gives bytes on TV channels and Twitter. He is not concerned about the 2 crore people of Delhi," the north-east Delhi MP alleged.

Even as garbage disposal had become a 'great problem' in Delhi and sanitation workers were staging demonstrations at the residence of the Chief Minister, he was busy talking about other issues, the Delhi BJP argued.

## Experts urge Centre to reverse stand on e-cigarettes

Ask it to allow products that reduce the initiation into and continuous use of tobacco products

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

Experts have called on the Union Health Ministry to reverse its stand on electronic cigarettes and help lower tobacco risk and abuse.

"The Union Health Ministry has adopted a policy on vaping that will harm the health of millions of Indians and protect and entrench smoking," said former president of the International Harm Reduction Association Alex Wodak. He added that countries that aim to eradicate tobacco use usually get terrible results. It is much more effective to try and reduce the initiation and continuing use of tobacco products as well as encouraging less risky options.

Advocating for allowing vaping to be allowed in In-

India risks missing a historic opportunity to reduce the harm caused by smoking tobacco. The country should consider the available evidence and take measures to endorse and regulate safer alternatives. Millions of lives could be saved

KONSTANTINOS FARSALINOS  
MD, research fellow at the National School of Public Health, Athens

dia, experts say that most countries around the world allow vape products.

"Countries generally welcome safer products that have a potential to save lives," said Professor David Swenor, chair of the advisory board at the Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics, University of Ottawa, Canada.

He explained that Canada was among the countries that initially tried to ban vaping products, based on the science, recently had changed its stance to actively encouraging smokers to switch.

**Preventable deaths**

"We have seen the same in fellow Commonwealth Country New Zealand. We have an opportunity to achieve a public health and consumer rights' breakthrough of historic proportions, and governments should seize the opportunity. Twenty thousand people die each day due to disease caused by inhaling cigarette smoke. These premature deaths are preventable, but the cure needs to come from political action," he added.

Experts have urged the India government to legalise and regulate safer alternatives to the tobacco products currently available in India.

"India risks missing a historic opportunity to reduce the harm caused by smoking

**TOBACCO KILLS UP TO HALF OF ITS USERS**

Tobacco kills more than 7 million people every year. More than 6 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use while around 890,000 people die because of exposure to second-hand smoke

Around 80% of the world's 1.1 billion smokers live in low and middle-income countries

FOR A SAFER ALTERNATIVE

Vaping is the act of inhaling vapour produced by a vapouriser or electronic cigarette. The vapour is produced from materials such as e-liquids, concentrates, or dry herbs

**WHAT IS A VAPOURISER?**

A vapouriser is an electric device that turns vaping material into vapour. A vapouriser usually consists of battery, main console or housing, cartridges, and atomiser or cartomiser. The battery generates the power for the heating element in the atomiser or cartomiser, which contacts the vaping material and transforms it into vapour for inhalation

**WHAT MATERIALS CAN BE VAPED?**

The vast majority of vapers use e-liquids; other common materials include waxy concentrates and dry herbs. Different vapourisers support the vaping of different materials. For example, e-liquid vapourisers have a cartridge or tank, while a dry herb vapouriser has a heating chamber. Multipurpose vaporizers allow you to vape different materials simply by switching cartridges

tobacco. The country should consider the available evidence and take measures to endorse and regulate safer alternatives. E-cigarettes and safer alternatives to India's high-risk tobacco options should be made legal and appropriately regulated in India. Millions of lives could be saved," said Konstantinos Farsalinos, MD, research fellow at the National School of Public Health, Athens.

Experts presenting their case to the India government said, "Nicotine, while addictive, is not particularly harmful. Burning tobacco, not nicotine, is why smoking harms smokers and public

health. E-cigarettes and other 'vaping' products eliminate combustion and provide nicotine in a much cleaner form."

In 2014, Dr. Farsalinos and co-author Professor Riccardo Polosa published a systematic review of the evidence on e-cigarettes.

**Smoking cessation**

"We found they are much safer than cigarette smoking. The evidence since then has convincingly confirmed this."

Professor Rajesh Sharan Department of Biochemistry and director of Design Innovation Centre at North-East-

ern Hill University, Shillong among the few experts in India who have studied e-cigarette science said, "In 2016 we encouraged the then Union Health and Family Welfare Minister to consider policies that would facilitate smoking cessation by providing smokers with safe and regulated tobacco alternatives. We believed then, and believe more strongly now, that public health in India is at a greater risk under a prohibitive environment than by allowing smokers, who wish to cease tobacco use, an alternative option based on nicotine replacement via e-cigarettes."

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded "poor" air quality for the second consecutive day on Saturday, showed data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

**Stubble burning**

While the overall air quality index (AQI) on Friday was recorded at 259, it was recorded at 211 at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Attributing the drop in air quality to the change in di-

rection of wind, a CPCB official said that stubble burning in Haryana and Punjab was the reason behind the dip.

Senior officials at the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution Control Authority said that the situation is being monitored closely.

Data from System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) revealed that the PM 10 level in the Capital was 191 while PM 2.5 level was 94.

## City records 'poor' air quality for second day

## Environment Ministry to act as nodal agency for NCZ: NGT

Green tribunal Bench dismisses its review petition

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) held that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has to act as the nodal agency to ascertain whether the sub-regional plans for protection of National Conservation Zones (NCZ) prepared by the States are in consonance with the regional plans prepared by the National Capital Region Planning Board. The green panel earlier dismissed a review petition moved by the Environment Ministry.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel observed, "Review of the order has been sought for to the extent that instead of MoEF&CC, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), be made the nodal agency as the latter Ministry has the mandate and resources to accomplish the job of finalisation of revised regional plan of the National Capital Region [NCR] being undertaken."

The green panel further observed that the MoEF&CC, in the initial order was made the nodal agency "for effective

monitoring".

"The paramount consideration of doing so was for effective monitoring work of delineation of NCZ having regard to the fact that the primary consideration for the exercise is to ensure safeguard of the environment in respect of which the apex body is MoEF&CC," the Bench held.

The Environment Ministry in its plea had contended that it is "only one of the participating members of the NCRPB" for providing all technical and advisory support.



# CJI unimpressed as Bar calls for lifting ban on lawyers' strike

Disagrees with BCI Chairman's suggestion; says there should not be any strike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Saturday disagreed with a suggestion by the apex Bar body to lift a 16-year-old ban on strikes by lawyers, wondering why there should be a strike at all.

Justice Gogoi's response came after Bar Council of India chairman Manan Kumar Mishra raised the issue of lifting the ban at a BCI event to felicitate the new CJI.

The CJI's view was also shared by apex court's Justice Arun Mishra, who reminded the lawyers that their absence in court will affect people's liberty and deny many of their rights.

Justice Gogoi, who was sworn in as the CJI on October 3, said, "I don't think it is an issue at all. Why go into the legalities. Why should there be a strike? I am sure there won't be any".



I can say on an informal note that the judges do consult the Bar. It is just that the kind of inputs the judges take while recommending names, you will be glad to know that the Bar is always taken into the reckoning, perhaps we have not formalised it

RANJAN GOGOI  
Chief Justice of India

Demanding lifting of the ban, the BCI chairman said that if the mouth of lawyers are shut it will destroy the very democratic set-up of the country.

"The legal fraternity has a great faith on the CJI. We are sure that you will restore our freedom," he said.

Justices N.V. Ramana and Mohan M. Shantanagoudar, both apex court judges, were also present on the occasion.

In a 2002 judgment, an apex court Bench had held that lawyers have no right to go on strike or give a call for boycott, not even a token strike.

Justice Gogoi also expressed concern over the issue of large number of undertrials in the country. He said that the figure of undertrials in the country is very disturbing and added that a large segment of the country's young population is in jail.

The CJI said that 67% of the prison population are undertrials out of which 47% are between the age of 18 and 30. "Out of this 67%, 66% belong to the Scheduled Caste and 71% are below Class X and 28% are illiterates. This is where legal aid comes in. A

large number of lawyers are doing legal aid for very small remuneration," he added.

However, he said, that the quality of legal aid needs to be improved.

"Legal aid comes from a feeling of wanting to do something good. This is a feeling that can be generated by the BCI in lawyers. This is how society will grow," said Justice Gogoi.

On the pendency of cases, the CJI said, "There is a feeling amongst all of us that the number of cases coming into courts are huge. It is huge because India is a huge country, but it is not."

He said that in the U.S., the number of new cases filed per thousand population in an year is 300, but in India it is 15.

"If we are staggering at a figure of 15, where would we be if it is 150," said Justice Gogoi.

"I can say on an informal note that the judges do consult the Bar. It is just that the kind of inputs the judges take while recommending names, you will be glad to know that the Bar is always taken into the reckoning, perhaps we have not formalised it," Justice Gogoi said.

# 42-year-old woman found dead; caretaker absconding

Cops to check if she was sexually assaulted before murder

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 42-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by a caretaker of a house in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar on Saturday morning.

The body was partially robbed and the prime suspect is absconding, the police said.

Pushpa, from Ghaziabad, was killed inside a house in Vivek Vihar's D-block, they said, adding that her body was dumped in the lane at the back side of the house.

"We are waiting for the victim's autopsy report to ascertain the exact cause of her death and if she was sexually assaulted before the murder. It seems that she was smothered," said a senior police officer.

The locals made a police control room (PCR) call after they saw a woman lying on the road with blood coming out of her nose.

## No visible injury

A team reached the spot and sent the body for autopsy after completing legal formalities.

No visible injury marks were found on her body, they added.

During initial investiga-



The body was found in Vivek Vihar's D-block. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tion, the police obtained CCTV footage of the surroundings where the body was found.

In one of the footages, a caretaker was seen dragging the body out of his employer's house and dumping it in the backside lane during the small hours on Saturday, the police said. "Sushil [40], from Bijnor, was a caretaker of the house for the past 14 years. The owner lives in Canada. Sushil was seen fleeing from the house on a motorcycle with another man," the police said.

"Police teams have been formed and the accused will be held soon. A case of murder was registered at the Vivek Vihar police station," said

a police officer.

The locals alleged they have complained of suspicious persons often visiting the house to the resident welfare association and local police but they never checked or verified the complaint.

"The house was often visited by men and women. After drinking alcohol, they used to create commotion in the neighbourhood. The caretaker was running immoral activities from his employer's house. But no action was ever taken against him," a neighbour said.

They also alleged that the victim was seen visiting the house for the past two days, the police added.

# 28-year-old man held for supplying drugs in city

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man was arrested from south-east Delhi for allegedly supplying drugs, the police said Saturday.

Abhijit Mukherjee, from Delhi, was involved in drug peddling in New Friends Colony area, Taimoor Nagar, Khirjabad village and Delhi/NCR, they said.

They received information regarding the supply of heroin in the area.

"On Friday at around 8.3 pm, the team laid a trap near Ashoka Park, Khirjabad Village. A suspect was spotted and he tried to run away after seeing the police. However, he was later arrested," said Chinmoy Biswal, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East)

Thirty-two grams of heroin was seized from his possession, the officer added.

## School drop-out

During interrogation, the accused revealed that he is a school drop-out.

He came in contact with some drug peddlers to earn quick money and started supplying drugs for them, the DCP said.

# PepsiCo ordered to compensate woman for refusing prize money

SHINJINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI

Holding PepsiCo guilty of "unfair trade practices", the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed the company to compensate a complainant by paying over ₹50 lakh.

Complainant Karishma

had alleged that despite winning an online game floated by PepsiCo during the 2010 Indian Premier League, the company did not give her the reward prize of ₹50 lakh.

Directing PepsiCo to compensate the complainant, the consumer panel said: "There is a growing tenden-

cy amongst the corporates to attract customers by announcing big prizes and asking public to participate in the competitions. It is done with a motive to promote business. Prizes other than the top one are hardly consolation prizes. The top prizes which attract huge number

of participants is hardly given to the winner and avoided on one or the other pretext."

Ms. Karishma said she had participated in an online game conducted by Pepsi. On successfully completing all the four rounds, she received a message confirming

her as the winner, she alleged. On contacting the representatives, she was informed that the prize money would be given to her within three days.

## No message sent

Later, they informed her that the money was awarded

to somebody else, she alleged. "[PepsiCo] submitted that they never sent the said message. Complainant fabricated the message with a view to defraud and to extract money from them. Defence raised is that the complainant had saved her own number in the mobile phone

and sent the message to her own phone," read the order. Terming the contentions as "impractical", the forum dismissed the arguments put forth. It said in case the money is not transferred within 30 days, PepsiCo will be liable to pay the amount at an interest of 24% per annum.

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## The Great Catsby



A cat atop a tree in New Delhi on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

# Taimoor Nagar residents demand probe into illegal drug trade

Drug modules running under the garb of tea stalls, say protesters

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The residents of Taimoor Nagar on Saturday held a mahapanchayat demanding a probe into the illegal drug trade operating from the Indira camp JJ colony.

The event was attended by the wife and children of Rupesh Basoya, who was killed for opposing drug sale in the area.

Hours before the event, the locals nabbed three drug peddlers near the victim's house and staged a protest against the police for allowing them to operate in the area.

During the event, Basoya's brother Umesh called for a probe into the drug trade.

The protesters invited 360 nearby villagers and declared Basoya to be a martyr



The protesters invited 360 nearby villagers in the mahapanchayat held on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

who was raised voice against the illegal trade.

## Compensation sought

The RWA members, who participated in the protest, threatened to go on an agitation unless the illegally set up JJ colonies were dismantled. The victim's family also

sought a compensation and job for Rupesh's wife.

The protesters said the slums attract hundreds of buyers from all over NCR. Several drug modules are active in the area, running under the garb of tea stalls and grocery shops, the residents echoed.

# Former SHO suspended in Taimoor Nagar killing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has placed under suspension a former New Friends Colony police station SHO, who was line-attached after the killing of a man in the Taimoor Nagar locality last week.

Inspector Sushil Kumar, the then SHO of New Friends Colony police station, was suspended from service on Saturday for misconduct and negligence in duty, Chinmoy Biswal, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East), said.

Rupesh Basoya (34) was shot dead by two men last week in south-east Delhi's Taimoor Nagar in New Friends Colony, triggering protests in the area.

The victim's family alleged police inaction.

**DELHI POLICE**  
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GURUGRAM**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**No. : EE (S)/MCG/2018/44056      Dated: 02.10.2018**

Online bids are hereby invited on behalf of Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Gurugram from eligible Contractors/Firms/Suppliers for the work mentioned below:-

Sr. No	Name of work	Time Limit for work	Earnest Money	Tender Document Fee & eService Fee (Rs.)	Start Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission	Start & Expiry Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission
1.	New Body Fabrication, Hydraulic Platform and others accessories in Cattle Catching Van (Model Eicher 1075) under the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation, Gurugram.	30 Days	10000	1000+1000 =2000	02-10-2018 20:01 Hrs.	02.10.2018 20:01 to 16-10-2018 20:00 Hrs.

1. The detail tender notice and Tender Document can be seen on website: <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> and download online from the Portal: <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> by the firms/individual registered on the Portal.

2. Possession of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and registration of the contractors on the portal i.e. <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> is a prerequisite for e-tendering.

3. For any other queries please contact Executive Engineer(S), Municipal Corporation Gurugram. No. 9821395219, 9821395276 & 8860364877.

4. As the Bids are to be submitted online and are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the Bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) at the earliest. For Further details, the Bidders should follow "Instruction to the Bidder", given in DNIT on the above said portal.

**Executive Engineer (S)**  
**for Commissioner,**  
**Municipal Corporation,**  
**Gurugram**  
**Prdh 72531      Email: aes@mcg.gov.in**

**Government of Jharkhand**  
**Road Construction Department**  
**Office of the Chief Engineer (Communication)**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Engineer's Hostel no.-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004**

**Short E-tender Notice (2<sup>nd</sup> Call) PR-184947**  
**e-Tender Ref. No.- RCD/CE(COMM)28/2018-19 (2<sup>nd</sup> call)      Dated: 04.10.2018**

The undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Jharkhand State invites the percentage rate bids through-Procurement from the eligible and approved contractors registered with appropriate classes under RWD/RDD/RCD (Roads) in any State Government/Central Government/MES for the following Road connectivity project on left Wing extremism affected area (RCPLWEA) (Batch-I) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), for the year 2017-2018 including their maintenance for five years. The bid should be submitted through online in the website [pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in](http://pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in) by eligible class of contractors. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment (With his own Digital Signature Certificate).

Sl. No.	Tender package No.	District	Block	Name of Road Work	Road Length ( Km )	Estimated cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs. in lakhs)	Cost of Tender paper (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Name of the RCD Road Division
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	RCPLWEA/ROAD/02	Gumla	Dumri	Widening & Strengthening of Bhikhampur to Jari Road.	20.810	227311429.00	45.47	10000.00	18 months	E.E, RCD, ROAD DIVISION, GUMLA

1.निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि / समय 22.10.2018 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक ।  
2.वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन 08.10.2018  
3.निविदा राशि, राश्वत पत्र एवं अग्रधन जमा करने की तिथि 23.10.2018 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक ।  
4.तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि 24.10.2018 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे ।  
5.निविदा आमंत्रण पदाधिकारी का नाम— मुख्य अभियंता (यातायात) कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, ग्रथम तल, अभियंत्रण छात्रावास संख्या-02, धुर्वा, रांची- 834004, झारखण्ड ।  
6. UCAN is compulsory for contractors registered in Jharkhand.  
7. Pledging of FD is also acceptable.  
13.ई-निविदा कार्यालय / सेल का सम्पर्क संख्या 0651-2400210  
आगे विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु वेबसाइट [pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in](http://pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in) पर देखें ।

P.R.193487 Road(18-19)-D      **बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ**

**Government of Jharkhand**  
**Directorate of Industries**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi-834002**

**Short Tender Notice**

Selection of Creative Agency/Event Manager for Design, Erection, Conceptualization of. "Indplas'18" during 30 Nov. to 03 Dec. 2018 at Kolkata.

Sealed tender are invited by Directorate of Industries, Govt. of Jharkhand for reputed ISO certified Exhibition fabrication agencies for Design, Fabrication and augmentation of Jharkhand Pavilion at Kolkata.

The Bidder should submit proposals in two parts-Technical Bid & Financial Bid for a raw space of 72 sq. mtr. for "Indplas'18" at Kolkata.

Jharkhand Pavilion shall be made of wooden structure on a raised wood finished platform with ply board cladding and appropriate paint finishing. Electrical wiring, fitting, fixture, sofa, lockable reception table, chairs, pantry, store, two brochure stand, LED TV at wall(12x10 feet) and other necessary furniture. Lounge area with Tea/Coffee machine and fridge, One receptionist /hostess, one pantry boy, one desktop with operator and one cleaning staff with all safety measures and clearances to be arranged by the agency. All electric, water and other charges related to Jharkhand Pavilion will be paid by the event manager.

**Terms & Conditions**  
**Following Information, with supporting evidence must be furnished by the bidder.**

- The firm must have worked with more than three State or Central Government, Departments, Organization.
- Only those firms, who have minimum 3 years experience of executing exhibition related jobs may apply, please attach minimum 05 works orders of Rs. 10.00 lakhs and above.
- Bidder should have a experience of fabrication of stalls in any (4 major cities) of our India (Attached documentary proof)
- The firm should have an average minimum yearly turnover of Rs. 1.50 crore & above for the last three years. Audited Balance sheet for years 2014-15 to 2016-17 to be attached.
- The firm must have PF & ESI registration and document and last 6 month's payment challan to be attached.
- If the firm comes under MSME and registered with competent authority of above mention work, then relevant documents should be submitted in support of their claim.
- GST registration document should be attached.
- Must have valid PAN of agency registration.
- Bidder should have a valid ISO 9001 certification.
- No consortium/Joint venture shall not be considered.
- One design in given size must be submitted along with hard & soft copy in a presentation format.

Bidder should have submit separate EMD and Tender processing fee for event( EMD of Rs.50,000/- (Refundable) and tender processing fee of Rs. 5,000/- (Non refundable) in sealed cover and addressed to the Director of Industries, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi latest by 3.00 pm on 22.10.2018. The Technical bid will be open on the same day at 3.30 pm. Financial bid will be opened of those bidders who will successfully qualify in the Technical Bid part. For any other information please contact Sri Rajendra Prasad, Dy. Director of Industries, Directorate of Industries, GOJ, mob. No. 9470518897. The undersigned reserves the right to reject, cancel any particular or all bid without assigning any reason what so ever. The decision of the undersigned shall be final and binding.

P.R.193507 Industries(18-19):D      **महिलाओं का अधिकार 1 Rs में खिस्टी**

**Government of Jharkhand**  
**Department of Welfare**  
**Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute,Ranchi-834008**  
**Ref no. 724      Ranchi,Dated 05.10.2018**

**Expression of Interest**

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities/Department of Universities/ Govt. Organization/ Non-Govt. Organization/ Research Organizations for undertaking various National/ State level Research Projects of TRI, Ranchi during the year 2018-2020.

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) along with technical giving relevant details of the organization necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 22/10/2018 by 4.30 P.M. The price should be all inclusive (inclusive of all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open ended.

The intending agencies may submit their bid in sealed envelope on or before the due date. Technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in **BOLD "A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR "Documentation of life and works of prominent Artists/ performers/ personalities of Jharkhand"** written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the **Director, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008**. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of tender document sent by post.

Technical Bid will be opened on 26/10/2018 at 3.00 P.M in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi. **Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for presentation of project.** Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details can be obtained from the office of the TRI on any working day during office hour to meet concerned Nodal person and the same can also be downloaded from the website [www.trijharkhand.com](http://www.trijharkhand.com) under tender notice section.

**TRI, Ranchi reserves all rights to accept or reject all or any of the EOI's at any stage without assigning any reasons. TRI, Ranchi also reserves the right to engage/empanel one or more firm depending on requirements.**

**Note: Agencies who have submitted proposals for the EOI- Reference no.545, dated 7/9/2018 [P.R. 191674 Welfare (18-19) D] and EOI- Reference no.619, dated 24/9/2018 [P.R. 192730 Welfare (18-19) D] does not require to submit the proposal on the same topic.**      Sd/-  
PR193453 (Welfare)18-19"D      **बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ**

# 'Midterms from Oct. 9 in Sharda University'

Varsity asked to submit explanation within a week to the district administration ahead of Vice-President's visit on Oct. 28

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NOIDA (U.P.)

Normalcy is “returning fast” in Sharda University, its administration said on Saturday, as it announced recommencement of midterm examinations from October 9 which were postponed due to the violence on campus involving Indian and Afghan students.

The varsity, located in Gautam Budh Nagar's Greater Noida, witnessed violence between groups of Indian and Afghan students on Monday and Thursday, leading to injuries to some students and tension on the campus.

Multiple videos of scuffle between the two sides, in

which an Indian student from Kashmir also got roughed up on Thursday, emerged on social media, prompting the police to lodge a complaint on its own, even as the district administration ordered a probe on “anti-social” elements who entered the university and “triggered a minor scuffle into a communal issue”.

“In view of the recent untoward incidents on Sharda University campus, the university administration has been closely monitoring the situation. It has been observed that normalcy on the campus is returning fast. As such, the mid-term examination that was postponed shall



Violence broke out at Sharda University between two groups of students.

recommence from Tuesday, October 9, 2018,” University Joint Registrar and spokesperson Ajit Kumar said.

Mr. Kumar said the examinations were underway when the incidents took place and because of the violence exams on Friday (October 5) and coming Monday

It has been observed that normalcy on the campus is returning fast. As such, the midterm examination that was postponed shall recommence from October 9

AJIT KUMAR  
University Joint Registrar

(October 8) were affected. “These exams will be held after October 9,” he said. He said in a statement that the varsity has taken all necessary steps to maintain peace on the campus and the culprits of the violence are being

identified and disciplinary action would be taken against them.

**‘Round-the-clock vigil’**  
“The enquiry committee is working day and night to identify the culprits and to recommend strict disciplinary action against them. The personal safety of all students has been ensured and entry of outsiders has been completely restricted. The number of security personnel has been increased considerably and round-the-clock vigil is being maintained,” Mr. Kumar said.

An advisory has also been sent to all the students to cooperate with the university

authorities, he added.

In the wake of the violence on Thursday, the university had Friday announced suspending classes for three days. The district administration wrote to the university vice-chancellor, seeking a response on entry of “anti-social elements” on its campus who are suspected of triggering the violence.

The university has been asked to submit its explanation within a week to the district administration, which has raised concern over its security management ahead of Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu's scheduled visit on October 28 for varsity's convocation ceremony.

# Two killed after auto rams truck on Mayapuri flyover

Truck was parked on flyover; driver on the run: police

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Two men died after the auto they were travelling in hit a parked truck in Kirti Nagar during the small hours on Saturday.

**Auto driver hurt**

The injured auto driver, Taufiq, is undergoing treatment, the police said.

The deceased have been identified as Chand Babu (21) and Haider (33), they said, adding that all are residents of Sangam Vihar.

**Fruit vendors**

“The victims were fruit vendors and they were going to Azadpur in an auto when they met an accident on the way,” a police officer said.

The police received a PCR call at 5.30 a.m.

We have registered an FIR under IPC Section 304 A (causing death by negligence) and rash driving on the statement of eyewitness Manish Bhatia against the auto driver who will be arrested after he gets discharged

POLICE OFFICER

about a road accident on Mayapuri flyover.

A PCR van rushed to the spot and the injured were taken to a hospital where two persons were declared brought dead at Deen Dayal Upadhaya hospital, the police added.

An eyewitness, Manish Bhatia, told the police

that he was crossing Ring Road at about 5.30 a.m. when he saw that an auto hit a truck parked on Mayapuri flyover.

The auto was coming from Dhaula Kaun and going towards Punjabi Bagh, they added.

After this, he informed the police about the accident.

“We have registered a first information report under Indian Penal Code Section 304 A (causing death by negligence) and rash driving on the statement of eyewitness Manish Bhatia against the auto driver who will be arrested after he gets discharged,” said a police officer.

However, the truck driver – Bablu – from Haryana's Manesar is absconding, the police added.

# Road work comes to halt as villagers stage sit-in

For construction of new underpass in Dasna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GHAZIABAD

Scores of villagers staging a sit-in protest for construction of a new underpass in Dasna here stopped a road widening work by NHAI on Saturday.

Led by Dhaulana BSP MLA Aslam Chaudhary, the villagers of Dasna Masuri are seeking construction of the underpass in front of a mosque.

MLA Chaudhary said the sit-in protest will continue till the underpass is sanctioned by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

tinue till the underpass is sanctioned by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

**Sixth day of protest**

On the sixth day of their protest on Saturday, the villagers forcibly stopped the road widening work near Dasna.

The MLA said the intersection near the mosque in Dasna is the busiest and important one for the villagers. Officials of the NHAI had sought seven

days' time to “think over” the villager's demand.

The NHAI is said to have proposed constructing a foot over bridge (FOB). But villagers said the FOB cannot serve their purpose.

The general manager and project director of NHAI in Ghaziabad, R.K. Singh, said the area already has two underpasses and claimed that the construction of third one within the distance would go against norms.

# Cancerous tumour removed from 4-year-old girl's kidney

Patient was discharged 3 days after surgery: doctors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A four-year-old girl got a new lease of life after doctors at a hospital removed a cancerous tumour from one of her kidneys.

The girl was experiencing unbearable pain on her abdomen, following which she was admitted to the hospital. She was diagnosed with life-threatening Wilms' tumour, a doctor said.

It is a type of cancer that primarily affects children, said Prashant Jain, senior consultant of Paediatric Surgery and Paediatric Urology at BLK Centre for Child Health.

**Common in children**

Also known as nephroblastoma, it is the most common cancer of the kidneys in children. Most often it affects those aged between two and four

Noticing complications, we decided to perform left radical nephrectomy. During the procedure we first dissected the tumour from the adjacent organs to ensure that there is no major bleeding

PRASHANT JAIN  
Consultant of Paediatric Surgery and Paediatric Urology at BLK Centre for Child Health

years and becomes much less common after five, Dr. Jain added.

The patient had a lump in the abdomen. On evaluation, it was found that she had large well-defined, non-tender mass occupying the whole of left abdomen and also extending beyond the midline, the doctors said.

Ultrasonography and

CECT scan revealed that there was huge tumour which was arising from the left kidney. It was compressing the adjacent organs and was also displacing the surrounding major vessels.

“Noticing complications, we decided to perform left radical nephrectomy. During the procedure we first dissected the tumour from the adjacent organs to ensure that there is no major bleeding,” the doctor said. “Then the whole tumour along with the left kidney was removed,” he said. The surgery was conducted on August 20 and the patient was discharged after three days.

The tumour was sent for biopsy which confirmed that it was stage two Wilms' tumour.

The patient will now require further treatment with chemotherapy, the doctor said.



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**MATRIMONIAL**  
**BRIDEGROOMS WANTED**

**INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL**  
**BRIDEGROOMS WANTED**  
**BRIDES WANTED**  
**BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED**  
Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

**Assamese**  
**Awadhi**  
**Bengali**  
**Bhojpuri**  
**Bihari**  
**Chhattisgarhi**  
**English**  
**Gujarati**  
**Haryanvi**  
**Hindi**  
**Kannada**  
**Kashmiri**  
**Konkani**  
**Malayalam**  
**Manipuri**  
**Marathi**  
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**Nepali**  
**Oriya**  
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**MBA/ CA/ ICWA**  
**NRI**  
**Cosmopolitan**  
**Divorcee**  
**Physically Challenged**  
**MARRIAGE BUREAUS**  
**WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS**

**ENGLISH**  
PQM4 BEAUTIFUL Telugu Yadava Girl, 39/54", Bachelors, Working in Finance sector, Bangalore, 7 Lpa, Father Retd HAL, Mob: 096569301204, Email: vejkumar24@gmail.com.  
**HINDI**  
SEEKING EDUCATED vegetarians for Girl Gupta / Garg 160 cm, MBA 31 yrs HR Manager, Bangalore. Contact 996473829 / 9916104894  
**IAS / ALLIED SERVICES**  
I.R.S OFFICER 29/163 Hindu Mudaliar Asst.Commr (Customs & CE) Chennai 95kpm seeks similar Employment Govt Service Groom. CNB. Ct: 9840136141. Email : dskflats@gmail.com  
HINDU NADAR Tamil 29/164 IIS Asst Director I & B. Seeks Similar Services, Dr Professional CNB 09282430427  
**KANNADA**  
SC 33/162, M.Sc, Blore, unmarried seeks well educated (unmarried/ divorced) groom. CNB. Ct: 9591815684  
**MALAYALAM**  
SUNNI MUSLIM Parents settled in Sydney seeks alliance for Daughter 24/162 completed Medicine doing Internship in Australia from Doctors with PG willing to settle in Australia pref. Email to : abdulkadir.saj@gmail.com. Phone : +61468323401  
NAIR GIRL MCA 39 Pooyam 2 dosham Sr. Business Analyst, Multi National Bank, Hyderabad seeks professionally gird, employed groom. 9003213224  
ALLIANCE For Nair girl 25 yrs, 162 cms, B.Tech, MBA, working in Chennai. Email: sekarenmcc@gmail.com. Mob: 9447123134  
**TAMIL**  
CHRISTIAN FAITH, Hindu Nadar, 34/160cm, BE/ SWE, MNC/ America/ Wheatish seeks suitable Groom from Decent Family. Contact: 99444 61125/ sumathi.deep@gmail.com  
CHRISTIAN SC/AD 26/160 fair B.E., M.Tech., doing Ph.D. suitable groom from CSI/AG - Ct: 9894300039  
CSI NADAR 23/ 151cms, Fair and Slim / Educated family / BE / Works in CTS seeks God fearing settled Groom under 27 years, of Kanniyakumari District Origin. 9443313875  
CSI NADAR Girl 25/158 BE Wheatish colour working in father's own Engg. Co., Cbe. Mother, Asst Headmaster Govt. School. Ct: 9842255502  
RC NADAR (caste no bar) from Educated family, Fair, 28/ 156, BE, working. 7358802230  
CSI- SAMBAVAR/ 26yrs/ 169cm/ B.Sc/ Nurse/ USA/ Wheatish/ Middle Class/ Seeks Groom/ Age 27-32/ Any UG, PG/ Caste nobar/ Only abroad Contact: 9940644193  
RC- COSMOPOLITAN Bride/ 33yrs/ 158cm/ BA, MA/ MNC/ Fair/ Rich/ Seeks Anglo Indian Groom/ Age 33-37/ Any UG, PG/ RC based Anglo Indian only/ Ch / TN Contact: 8939813866  
SINGAPOREAN MUSLIM Working Girl, 27yrs seeks Singaporean/ Singapore PR Muslim Graduate Boy +91 6380744638  
CSI CHRISTIAN girl, Bsc Nurse, 40 yrs. Seeks groom below 45 yrs, Medical line, Engineer, Degree/Diploma or any decent job in India/ Abroad ct. 09841567837  
HINDU NADAR 30/162 MBA pursuing Specialization Abroad, Divorcee No issues very fair & good looking from reputed family seek suitable wellsettled Groom Abroad. Ct: mailtoam2017@gmail.com  
MUDALIAR 27 B.Tech, USA- Green card Holder seeks wellemployed/professional Groom. vkp20006@gmail.com  
MUDALIAR 26/152 Ultradam Girl (Raaghu in 1st House) Fair, Good Looking, B.Tech, MBA, Pvt Bank, Settled fmly seeks alliance from Equal match with decent salary. Ph: 9043020942  
ALLIANCE For Nair girl 25 yrs, 162 cms, B.Tech, MBA, working in Chennai. Email: sekarenmcc@gmail.com. Mob: 9447123134

**COSMOPOLITAN**  
Alliance invited for never married  
**33 Year Old Gujarati Girl**  
(convent and foreign educated) from business family in Ahmedabad.  
Contact Details : 9824051989 / 9227240764 (Call or WhatsApp)

**DIVORCEE**  
SUNNI MUSLIM Urdu 37/162 BE Software Engineer Divorcee, Seek Suitable Groom Bangalore, Chennai. 08248311960  
RC NADAR BE MBA 30/155 Very Fair, SWE 11L P.A Divorcee Shortlived 4months Seeks Suitable Groom 984942350  
SENGUNDRAR 33/167 Hastham/Kanni BE, Working SWE Chennai 8 Lpa, not Coor summated, Seeks Suitable Groom Sub sect no bar. 9444113276 / 9448324524  
JAT SIKH Girl, 29, 163 CM, Dentist In USA, Looking For Doctor Based In USA Ph- 9463763566  
ALLIANCE INVITED from eligible Hindu doctors or their parents height more than 6', preparing USMLE aspiring for medical career in USA, for a 22 year old, college going, 6' tall, fair, charming, good looking girl, born citizen of USA, with traditional Indian values, Caste / language no bar, email bio-data, and photo to KriShath68@gmail.com.  
YADAVA MBBS 25/159 Fair, Father Doctor, Mother Professor. Seeks Doctor groom, Caste expected BC and FC. Contact 7708764835, 0471-2040955, 94433-42109  
CSi, NADAR, 24yr - Fair, MBBS / Sweetly Drs Family, Suitable Groom. Ph: 7397776597  
MARUTHUVAR 28/168 Anusham, MBBS, MS (OG) Govt. Doctor seeks MBBS/MD/MS Doctor. Ct:9444958720, 9940278236  
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**TAMIL**  
MUDALIAR AFFLUENT Cultured Family in Chennai seeks highly qualified groom in India/ Abroad with clean habits from well to do same community for their good looking only daughter 28/ 160, Uthiramu dosam, Graduated from NIFT, Manager in Luxury Retail Company. BHP to WhatsApp / Call: 94443 19929  
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S.BAKYA BANU, MSc, B.Ed, Mphil, Teacher, 1st Marriage, Yadava, 16.12.1982, 8.35am, Dhanusu, Moolam, 3rd Poonam Chennai. Mobile: 9080988170  
VANNIYAKULASHATRIYA Poosam Kadagam Rasi 24.03.1983/165 M.Sc maths Employed Cognizant(CTS) seek PSU/SWE/GovtGroom.Ct:9789890690 BHP to: rekaraman@gmail.com  
SAIVA PILLAI, 26/153/Ketta, M.Tech(NIT), wheatish, good looking, homely, plus, employed in MNC, Bengaluru, seeks suitable groom from same caste-vegetarian only. E-mail: ki.geetha@gmail.com. Mobile: 9442121371 / 9487334873.  
MUDALIYAR 25 / B.Tech., Own Bus Services, Finance Business, fair well Royal Family Seeks Groom 8939550566  
MUDALIYAR 24/ M.B.S.B., (M.S) Own Hospital at Chennai Fair well settled Girl Seeks Groom 9489851000  
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HINDU VANNIYAR 36/165/Aswini BE, MS Working in US as Contractor. Waiting for H1B Visa Approval. Seeks US Working Groom with Equal Qualification and Age.Cnt:918506546241 muthu.periathambi@gmail.com  
HINDU ARUNTHATHIYAR 35/160, Fair, B.E., Cam Employee, Divorcee seeks suitable Groom.Caste no Bar. Ct: 94420 90456/ 94878 30639

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MUDALIYAR, 30, 157 cms, Software Developer, M.E. Lives in USA. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from a similar community in USA. Contact: 7092344555  
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SEEEKS ALLIANCE for Pulaya girl, 30/155, Ultradam, B.Tech - NIT Calicut, MBA - IIM Bangalore, Manager reputed MNC Delhi. (Expects transfer to Bangalore). From: similarly qualified and employed grooms. 90612 59560 - Kerala (Not Bureau)  
SALIYA POOYAM 28/160 B.Tech MNC in Chennai Seeks Suitable SW/IT Grooms Chennai/Bangalore/Pdy Ct: 9443431237  
KANIYAN PANICKER Girl, 26, 165cms, MBA, MNC Chennai, Native Palakkad, Star Ultradam. Ph. 9447646197, 8075607962  
Coimbatore based Nair Girl 26, BE Pooyam Axis Bank Officer, seeks well settled boys. Contact: 9423519926, ppbrabakaran.2007@gmail.com  
**TAMIL**  
SC-AD POORADAM Dhanusu 25/152 M.Com,Pvt 3Lpa seeks Well Educated settled groom.9080281136/8668046047  
F-MUDALIYAR M-NAIR Kadagam Poosam 23/168 B.Com, CPA Pursuing Seeks Wellsettled Educated Groom. 9841074440  
HINDU 35 Mudaliyar BSc BE Divorcee 10000/- Divorce/ Marriage 44below 944629587 mail: anur5597@gmail.com  
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MARAVAR 33/167 Magaram BE, MBA, IT Manager, MNC divorcee no issue seeks employed groom without issue. 9445747725/ ganesanselvarani@gmail.com  
SC/AD 03.08.1988/ 160 Aswini / Meshram Slim BE, MBA Manager in International Bank, Seeks GOVT / PSU Groom Ct: 98178662793 anganthuthu@gmail.com  
MUDALIAR, AGAMUDAIYAR /Thuluvavellala, Sathayam, 23/ 164, Working, Very Fair Seeks above 75K, Suitable unmarried Groom, Educated Govt. Bank, Engineers, Upper middle Class Settled in Chennai. Age 25 to 29. Contact: 99405 77377  
SENGUNTHAR BBM 34/172 VRICH Fair seeks RICH busijog Erode Trippur koodi salem near groom 9443895200  
HINDU NADAR Girl Pooradathi Kumbam 37/162 M.Phil Designer Chennai seeks well Qld/Empld Groom. 9003206124  
HINDU PILLAI 1985/157 Fair B.Tech, MBA wrking American Company 12Lpa Short Lived Marriage, Legally Divorced seeks suitable well placed groom from good matradefx10@gmail.com  
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SC IAD /HINDU /MSC, D/1983 158CM Visaham, Dnulam Seek Suitable Qual- Employed. 9444866276,9445755194  
MUDALIAR Educ parents seek groom for their Daughter Ultratadi 29/155 BE & Journalism-ACJ Job @ Chennai. 09841281331, thanga1960@gmail.com  
SC 30/162 I Professional seeks Professional/ Employed Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact: 9884044269

**TAMIL**  
MUDALIAR, MARCH, 25/168, Anusham, fair, good-looking girl seeks professionally qualified, smart, handsome and well placed groom from educated family.ct.7338800828/9445097852.  
PILLAI/ MUDALIAR, 28 yrs, M.Tech, Seeks Bridegroom who wants settle in Australia. Please Call: 9884003062  
VALLUVAN(SC) 22/165 B.Tech Fair Avilam Raguk, Kethu, HPCI, 9LPA, Seeks Doctors, Bank Officer, Engr. Ph:9940283241  
SC AD 29/172 B.Tech NIT Ultradam/ Thanusu Manager Nationalised Bank seek groom from decent family 984002540  
GOOD LOOKING SC/AD 28 B.E job@ CTS, seeks smart, well educated groom. Caste No Bar. Call/ Watup details to 9972102975  
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Tamil Hindu SC PL 34yrs/158cm, Fair MBBS,MD, [GOVT] Expected GOVT Employee 7598365585 / 7598365586  
MUDALIAR POOSAM 36 BE fair Chennai seeks good family background groom. CNB. 8778564874/gkrkalai@gmail.com  
SC KANNI Rasi 39/169 MCA, IT MNC, Chennai seeks well qualified, settled groom. Caste no bar. 971022859  
PILLAI (ONLYCHILD) v.beautiful 21/ 160 (BE/CSC) well to do/No expectations 9380471999 / 9384884888  
INTERCASTE V.FAIR 31/167 Chartered Accountant/MNC/Chennai 30K p.m. 9385599055 / 9385599066  
25/145/FAIR/BDS/SC/KONGU/GOVT College Principal's Daughter seeks professionally employed boy below 30 years. Ct: 9442898865  
VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYAR girl,25.52',fair,B.Tech,CTS, Ultradam seeks Chennai based handsome, educated, Employed groom with Clean habits from well to do family. Mob.98410 32967/ 72999 63696

**TAMIL**  
MUDALIAR, 23/165, Fair & Beautiful, ACS, Chennai, Only Daughter, 30y, Property, 8056174102, 8754415378  
ADDIDRAVIDAR, SLIM, 24/153, B.E, SWE, Infosys, Chennai, 45000PM, Settled Family, 7358378866, 8056091059  
NAIDU CASTE NO BAR, 25/170, Fair & Beautiful, MBBS, Well Settled, Seeks any prof, 8056174102, 8754415378  
VANNIAR, 26/165, FAIR, B.E, SWE, Chennai, 20000PM, Busi.Family, Seeks any prof, 8056174102, 8754415378  
NAIDU DIVORCEE, 21/165, Beautiful, B.Com, 10000PM, No issues, Well Settled, CNB, 8056174102, 8754415378  
IYER BHARATWAJAM Aiyilam-4, 28/ 170 MBA V.Fair Chennai Based family in business seeks Well Educated Affluent Groom below 30, 6381100874  
BRAHMIN-SMARTHA, Bangalore girl, 28/163, BE working in Pennsylvania state seeks US working professional 9480180706  
BRAHMIN GIRL MBBS aged 26, Aiyilam, Kowskam pursuing MD in a reputed Institution. Only child of a practising Neurologist, preferring Doctor groom doing or completed MD or DM or affluent CA, B.Tech, MBA in the age group of 28-30, Contact: 044-28173193, 98430-58133.  
Vadamal Srivatsam Mar1989 Tall BS (MIT,USA),MBA(Harvard),US citizen in California seeks wellsettled.9841275504  
IYENGAR KOWSIGAM Sadayam Feb 79, MBA, CTS Chennai, Remarriage No Issues Seeks Max 3yrs diff, Simple Marriage Groom Joint Family at Avadi After Marriage Ct: 9884665833  
IYENGAR KOWSIGAM Kithigai July 81, MA Com, CTS Chennai Remarriage No Issues Seeks Max 3yrs Diff, Simple Marriage Groom Joint Family at Avadi After Marriage Ct: 9862176065  
IYER DIVYA, 39, Diploma, Pvt, 12000/-, Seeks Iyer / Iyengar Groom No Expectation. Ct: 7550221375  
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VADAGALAI SHADAMARSHANA 1994 BABL (Hons)/Corporate Litigating Associate Very Fair Carnatic Artist Seeks Equally Qualified Professional/ Clean Habits Groom With Traditional And Modern Outlook. 9444034491  
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IYER KOUSHIKAM Pooradathi 26/ 164 MS (PhD) USA V.Fair Chennai based Family in Business seek below 30 well educated affluent groom.9940904524  
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BALIJANAIIDU V.FAIR 22/162 BE(EEE) Engg.MNC/Chennai 35Kp.m.seeks India/abroad 9385599033 / 9384887888  
YADAVA (CASTENOBAR) 22/160 Business Family above 75Crs seeks groom/No expectations 934548354/ 9848197222  
BALIJA NAIDU, FAIR, SLIM, 26/168, MBBS, PG doing, Rich Family, Seeks any prof, 8754415378, 9566002501  
KAMMA NAIDU, FAIR, 26/163, MBBS, PG doing, Elite Family,Seeks any professional, 9500085718, 7358378866  
REDDY, FAIR, SLIM, 25/152, B.E, Bangalore, 65000PM, Settled, Seeks any prof, 9500147440, 7358378866  
KAMMA (CHENNAI) 24/165 BDS/12Crs Chennai seeks business family groom 9380879808 / 9382554555  
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SMU 25/170 B.A Fair Religious Bride seeks educated Groom from good family (Safai Manhaj). Ct: 9940053393, nafeestaranum1@gmail.com  
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SMU PARENTS, Sheikh, seek alliance for their M.Tech daughter, 27/160, fair, slim and orthodox, employed as Executive in Central Govt PSU at Bangalore, Class I Officers of Central/ State, P.G. Engineers/ Doctors from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka preferred. Ct: 9538290721 / 9886597804. Email: dbasha2@gmail.com  
SMU 24/164 Fair Slim CA working MNC Chennai,well educated family, seeks equally/higher Qld.MBBS PGs from TN,preferly working in TN/Blore/ UAE,W.App.Biodata,Poto 8122326438  
SMU 22/169 B.Sc. (M.Sc) Very Fair Seeks well Educated,Employed groom, Pvt/Govt.chennai.Contact:9840607305 9841104178 tabassum.abida@gmail.com  
SUNNI DIVORCEE BE 33/162cm,no Kids Religious Seeks Religious Ahle Hadeeth well Qualified Settled Groom.Ct.9841104178 tabassum.abida@gmail.com  
SMU 27/165, Fair, Good looking, C.A Final, ACS Final District Topper Good Medicalist delegated to India seeks suitable Groom. Ct: 80158 78795  
IMU PARENTS seeks suitable alliance for their only daughter 29/165 B.Tech MNC, USA interested parents can reach this no 6379863694  
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**BRIDES WANTED**  
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37 WELL settled divorcee short-lived marriage IT Hyd Christian AG Church 9908365787  
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ARYAVSYA, BOY Age-37, Height-180cm, Working in MNC, Ahmedabad, Salary-1.10 Lac/PM, Telugu, Veg only, cast no bar, 07567993566, Email: amarnathchabau@yahoo.co.in  
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SUNNI MUSLIM Urdu 42/162 BA,Centr Govt.Emp, Divorcee,Seek Suitable Bride Tamilnadu,Bangalore. 09442274548  
TAMIL BRAHMIN Divorcee 37/ 180 Harithasa, Gothram presently working for a Global company as head of operations in Europe.Looking for any Brahmin girl from good family. +91 9885452525 / 9885453535 or email vinznomal@gmail.com  
CANADIAN CITIZEN.NOW living in Chennai.From a popular family background.Well settled.1 son living abroad.Looking for traditional, good looking bride from any caste, in 40's,With or without issues. email gopinyc@gmail.com  
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MALAYALAM CAST No Bar Second Marriage 45, Settled Chennai own Business Rs.20000 Ct: 9445776071  
SUITABLE BRIDE for Nair I-C Groom 33/165 Chachayam Sudham Clean Habits B.Tec MNC CBE Projes 9LPA No Demands. F-09952485996, M-09677616391.  
ALLIANCE FOR Nair Boy 26Yrs, B.Tech, Avitrom, Fair Working in Automobile Industry Chennai. Ct:09568205675  
SEEKING ALLIANCE for India born USA citizen well settled in USA for 23 years, 45, 57' Senior IT professional. Girl should be 30-36 very fair slim with no kids. Email newyork.usa@gmail.com +91 9486341267  
**MARATHI**  
Wanted Brahmin Bride 37- 40yrs, edu for Dr.Marathi Brahmin Groom 46/ 54, 09490192324.  
**MBA/CA/ICWA**  
IYENGAR 38 Yrs CA, working in MNC Bangalore, 175cm,never married, seeks bride,subsect no bar, 9488165851  
**TAMIL**  
RC VELLALAR 36/160cm/DUBAI/MNC/Mechanical Engg. DP/3.0 lakhs pm. (thatheyus.benjamin@gmail.com)/jsk.Bride



## Girl swept away in canal

CORRESPONDENT  
CUTTACK

Two days after recovery of the bodies of two minor boys from the Mahanadi waters, another mishap occurred in the adjacent Taladanda canal here on Saturday morning in which a girl has gone missing and two minor children were rescued from drowning.

According to the police, two girls and a boy, aged between 7 and 9 years, of the nearby Chauliganj area were bathing in the canal when one of the girls slipped and was swept away by the current. Trying to rescue her, the two others lost their balances and were swept away.

Hearing their cries, a man selling fish on the river bank jumped into the waters and managed to rescue the boy and a girl. "I managed to pull out the two but failed to locate the third child," said Pahal Samal.

The policemen from the two police stations located on either side of the canal rushed to the spot and requisitioned the services of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force team.

## 23 held for Puri violence

Police register 15 cases; protesters had barged into SJTA office

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

Twelve more persons were arrested on Saturday for allegedly vandalising public property in Puri during a bandh on October 3. With this, the total number of arrests in connection with the violence has gone up to 23.

The bandh was called by Jagannath Sena, a socio-cultural organisation, in protest against the dhadi darshan (queue system for entering the temple), introduced by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration on the recommendation of Supreme Court-appointed *amicus curiae* Gopal Subramaniam.

During the protest, dozens of people barged into the SJTA office and damaged furniture and government files. Barricades put up outside the 12th-Century temple were also uprooted.

The protesters even attacked the residence of Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Maheswar Mohanty, the local MLA, and Puri SP Sarthak Sarangi.

After analysing the CCTV footages, the Town Police registered 15 cases and arrested 11 persons the next



Smoke rises after protesters set fire to tyres at the Grand Road in Puri. ■ FILE PHOTO

day. Mr. Subramaniam, who had made a number of recommendations for reforms in the functioning of the temple, sought a report on the issue.

Members of the Biju Janata Dal on Saturday staged a demonstration against the attack on Mr. Mohanty's house. The BJD leaders alleged that some vested interest groups were trying to tarnish the image of the Naveen Patnaik government by instigating violence.

Mr. Mohanty on Saturday said the administration should refrain from making the queue system arrangement for the pilgrims. He said that such a system was not required in the Jagannath temple keeping in view its grand size.

"Puri temple has huge open space while other temples are located in narrow areas. This apart, while other temples have one deity, Puri Srimandir has multiple deities. Therefore, some flexibility should be there," he said.

Stating that such a decision should not be taken in a haste, Mr. Mohanty said the dispute should be discussed from different angles. He said that he would request CM Naveen Patnaik if the State needs to inform the apex court on the technical difficulties of the queue system in the temple.

(With PTI inputs)

## Manipur students 'shocked' at acting V-C's remark

He had compared agitating students with terrorists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
IMPHAL

The Manipur University Students' Union (MUSU) has expressed shock over acting Vice-Chancellor K. Yugindro Singh's remark that agitating students are like "terrorists" and that his life is at risk.

### Y-category security

In a letter to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Mr. Singh had demanded Y-category security for himself.

"I would like to request the Centre to do the needful immediately in order to save the University from the hands of terrorists like agitators..." Mr. Singh said in his October 3 letter.

At a press conference on Friday night, MUSU presi-

dent M. Dayamand questioned the basis of Mr. Singh's claim and said his comparison between students and terrorists was "shocking".

He also attacked the acting V-C over his claim that Governor Najma Heptulla was lending 'overt support' to the agitators. Mr. Dayamand said only a 'mentally unsound' individual could level such charges against the Governor.

### Governor's role

He said Ms. Heptulla has been making efforts to restore normalcy in the varsity and for resumption of academic activities.

He also welcomed Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's orders to the DGP to stop all at-

tempts to arrest the students and teachers and withdraw security forces from the campus.

### On the boil

The Manipur University has been on the boil for several months. It opened on August 23 after 85-day strike by the students who had been demanding removal of the then V-C A.P. Pandey over allegations of administrative and financial irregularities against him.

President Ram Nath Kovind, in his capacity as Visitor of the University, recently placed Mr. Pandey under suspension as an inquiry is under way into the allegations against him. Mr. Singh was appointed as the acting V-C soon after.

## Prithvi-II missile night trial successful

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BALASORE (ODISHA)

India's Strategic Forces Command on Saturday successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile during night time as part of a user trial by the Army from a test range in Odisha, Defence sources said.

The surface-to-surface missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was launched from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore around 8.30 p.m., they said.

Prithvi-II was previously successfully test-fired during night time on February 21 this year from the ITR at Chandipur. The missile is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads.

## Berhampur varsity closed after unrest

Students' union elections cancelled; boarders asked to vacate hostels by 10 a.m.

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

Following students' unrest on campus, the Berhampur University authorities on Saturday cancelled the ongoing students' union elections and declared the institution closed till further orders.

The syndicate of the university called an emergency meeting early morning and passed a resolution to close all the post-graduate departments from 7.30 a.m. until further orders.

According to university officials, the decision was taken in the wake of the violence on the campus in relation to the students' union elections.

### 'Unruly' students

The authorities claimed that despite holding discussions they were unable to pacify the 'unruly' students.

All students and hostel boarders were ordered to vacate the university campus by 10 a.m.

The Berhampur Universi-

ty campus witnessed unruly scenes on Friday night when the nomination of a candidate, Ajit Kumar Swain, contesting for post of general secretary was cancelled.

His supporters allegedly protested the decision and vandalised the campus. They also ransacked the office of the Post-Graduate Council chairman.

The students held a dharna in front of the official quarters of the Vice-Chancellor, Rajendra Prasad Das.

Police force had to be deployed on the campus to bring the situation under control.

### Candidature cancelled

The University sources said the candidature of Mr. Swain was cancelled as he had a criminal case pending against him.

Mr. Swain had suppressed this fact while filing the nomination papers and had given a false affidavit that he had no cases pending against him.

## Advocate fails to appear before IGP

Alleged assault on him by some policemen had triggered Odisha lawyers' strike

CORRESPONDENT  
CUTTACK

Advocate Devi Prasanna Patnaik, who was allegedly assaulted by some policemen here on August 28 triggering the ongoing month-long lawyers-police rift in Odisha, did not appear before the Crime Branch IGP Arun Bothra on Saturday

and has sought some more time to respond to the summons notice as he is unwell.

### Named as accused

"The advocate is named as accused in at least three FIRs. He was summoned for questioning on the day. Since he is unwell and has sought some more time, we

will allow it," said Mr. Bothra.

The IGP had been entrusted by the Supreme Court with investigating into all the four FIRs registered soon after the unsavoury incident.

The IGP, after taking up the FIRs for investigation on September 29, has already

examined all the named accused persons in the four FIRs but not the advocate, who is also the complainant of one of the FIRs.

Adjudicating over a PIL that has sought for a judicial enquiry into the incident, the Orissa High Court is also monitoring the investigation of the FIRs.

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### DEATH



**Mr. J. Balasubramaniam (Babu)**  
S/o Late Justice G.R. Jagadisan  
Attained the lotus feet of the Lord  
10<sup>th</sup> day rituals on Thursday  
11 October from 8 am in  
Gayatri Trust Gyana Vapi,  
Chrompet, Chennai.

13<sup>th</sup> day function at our  
residence Flat No. F4,  
"KANDAN" Old No. 73  
Rajendra Prasad Road, Nehru  
Nagar, Chrompet,  
Chennai - 600 044 from 8am.  
In grief Mrs. Lakshmi Balasubramaniam  
Mrs. Rajalakshmi Murali and  
Mr. B. Murali, United Nations.  
(M) 9810037575

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THE HINDU

## 2 robbers held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

The police on Saturday arrested two highway robbers and seized stolen mobile phones, cash and sharp weapons from their possession in Jaipur district. The two were arrested from Kantigadia village on Friday night. The duo had recently assaulted a truck driver and looted money and mobile phone after intercepting his truck on November 30, police said.

## MATRIMONIAL BRIDES WANTED

TAMIL	TAMIL
<b>SEER KARUNEEGAR</b> 34/178cm /40.00 B.TECH MBA FAIR Well settled , Own House. Ct:9884341964 / 9445790156	<b>VANNIYAKULASHATRIYAR</b> Magam 29/165 DCE Own Construction Co. seeks Bride. 9791089998/ 9791122264
<b>SC/AD/25/168 BE ASWINI(RAGUKETHU)</b> work Canara Bank seeks working bride preferably Bank/LIC ct 9994195565	<b>SC(A) TIRUVONAM</b> Magaram 33/165 BE MNC 1Lpm Handsome seeks Well Educated Goodlooking Bride preferably Telugu speak.castenobar.9894382510
<b>ARYA VYSYA</b> Moolam 48/75k pm. Legally divorced without encumbrance. Seeks suitable alliance. bal.k606803@yahoo.co.in / 7010552967	<b>SAIVA PILLAI</b> , fair, smart, 24/167cm, B.Tech - Anna Univ. MNC - 1L, 75kpm / Seeks B.E. MBA, DR/ Bride from decent background. 9444720757
<b>MUDALIYAR</b> 24.06.1989/ 165cm Sadhayam, BE MNC Chennai, 8.5Lpa. Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9840408025	<b>SEEKING ALLIANCE for India born USA citizen well settled in USA for 23 years, 45, 5'7" Senior IT professional, Gt should be 30-36 Extremely fair slim with no kids. Email newyork.usa.r@gmail.com +91 9486341267</b>
<b>MARUTHUVAR</b> 41YRS /174cm Visakam T. l. am B.Tech.First Marriage Sankaranarayanan.TCS Chennai. 09840038796	<b>38, NEVER Married, BE, MS-SrMgr in IT, Tamil Vishwakarma/caste no bal. Expecting Good looking Bride age 32-35, 942226074</b>
<b>IVER VADAMAL HARITHA</b> Tiruvonam/Nov 78/MCA/Proj Mgr @ TCS Chennai/25L P.A./ Fair Tee totaller Seeks Nerve Married Brahmin Girl Age diff min 3yrs Ph:944438541 / 9600096079	<b>MUDALIYAR</b> 29/180 CM (B.E., B.Tech) from similar parentage. Ct: 9444126130. Email: pangasa30554@yahoo.com
<b>HINDUNADAR</b> DRMD/DM/ 26/180 1Lac P/ M seek same caste Bride 9380791999/ 970091999/rannannadar2004@gmail.com	<b>SAIVA MUDALIAR</b> , Divorce, Age 37,Sr.Er in Singapore, Ct:9884572000
<b>BOY FAIR</b> , 30, 180, Barani, B.E. Infosys, F-Nair(FC) Mother Iyer (Vadama) seeks bride (B.E., B.Tech) from similar parentage. Ct: 9444126130. Email: pangasa30554@yahoo.com	<b>HINDU NADAR</b> 30/ M.B.B.S Own Schools, educational Institutions, Business, Rich , Royal Family. Seeks Bride. 9940230062
<b>MUDALIYAR</b> 27/ M.B.B.S., M.S., Own Hospital well to do family seeks Rich Elite Bride. 9884500425	<b>ARMY OFFICER</b> with good family background seeking alliance for his son born Nov-1983/167, Fair, Handsome boy, with good habits working as Support Engineer in MNC at Bengaluru. Girl with family values preferred. Caste No Bar. Ct: 97906 07207
<b>Pillai, 39 / 171 rich 1st Marriage, Group -I. CNB. rajapandyan21@rediffmail.com. Cell: 9655843813</b>	<b>CASTENOBAR</b> 29/180 MD (Radiologist) Chennai 12 Lakhs pa seeks Drs/ Eng. 9840046277 / 9842127777
<b>SAIVA PILLAI</b> Man 27/180cm, B.E (Hons), M.Sc (Physics) (Hons), BITS Pilani, Hyd, MBA, ISB Hyd. Product Manager 22L/PA, Bangalore seeks Bride educated from reputed institution preferably PG, Career Oriented wrking at Bangalore or transferable to Bangalore. From same Caste or Allied Community. 9442541404 / 9003862109	<b>NADAR BE/MA/AM</b> 26/180 Vip/Well to do Family Seeks Bride 9380791999/9710091999/rannannadar2004@gmail.com
<b>HINDU NADAR</b> BE 29/178cm Fair Only Son Clean Habits Business Properly Unmarried Chennai Ct: 09840542229	<b>VANNIYAKULASHATRIYAR</b> 36 / Mir-gashisham, Rishaba Rasi / B.Tech Work- Software at Singapore seek Professional. Ph no. 9443730759
<b>NAICKER FAIR</b> 39/173 MBA Own Business ChennaiSettled Seeks Suitable Bride 9841204488/ suryagopal@gmail.com	

TAMIL	TAMIL	TELUGU	TELUGU
<b>MUDALIAR</b> , 29, M.Com, MBA,ICWA, 51'1",22L p.a.seeks suitable bride, CNB, 7200866346/ 8778514465 what's app	<b>IVENGAR UTHRAM</b> Simmam 33/190 N.Kashibam B.Com MBA IIM SR Manager Pvt Co, seeks suitable girl, 9445651918	<b>GAVARA NAIDU</b> , Chennai/30/169 cms/ Visakam/Thulam B.E. (CSE) CEG, PGP IIM(Ahmedabad), Senior Product Manager, PayPal (earning 50 Lakh Per Annum), from a well settled upper middle class family seeks professionally qualified, employed/unemployed girl from any suitable Naidu family. Contact: catchveekay@gmail.com ph: 9884439155/ 9884115473.	<b>REDDY, HANDSOME</b> , 31/172, B.E, MBA, Canada, 30L.PA, Well Settled, Seeks any profi, 9500085718, 7358378866
<b>MUDALIAR, HANDSOME</b> , 28/173, MBA, Business, Well Settled family, Seeks any grad, 8056174102, 8754415378	<b>IVYER BHARATWAJAM</b> Ketai 36/170 MS IIT Working Faculty Engg.College Mumbai seeks Educated Employed Bride, Sub Sect Nobar.Ct:9895902492 Email: ramakrishnan.vivek@gmail.com	<b>HINDU CHETTIAR</b> 35/181cms B.Tech, MBA Marketing Manager 10lakhs/pa. Seeks Vegetarian Telugu/Tamil Chennai Girl. Ct 9444559768, 044-42859960	<b>SUNNI MUSLIM</b> Urdu 36 ME, MBA, 170, handsome Project Engineer MNC seeks Beautiful Religious unemployed graduate from financially well-off family only Tamilnadu. 9486373808, 7539980325
<b>ADIDRAVIDAR, HANDSOME</b> , 30/174, MBBS, MS, Well Settled family, Seeks any profi, 8754415378, 9566002501	<b>TAMIL IYER</b> Vadamal Kausingam 41yrs Aiyilam BE divorcee seeks Tamil Iyer girl. No demands. Contact: 9841353749	<b>TELUGU BALIJA</b> Mirgashira Doctor MD 28/ 180 handsome Seeks PG, Dr. Girl. - 9962603699/ 044-42121209	<b>URDU</b>
<b>VANNIAR, HANDSOME</b> , 27/170, B.E, Job in SBI, 55000PM, Settled, Seeks any profi, 8754415378, 7358378866	<b>IVYER, Bharathwajam</b> , Makam star, 25 Yrs B.Com MBA employed in MNC Co. based at Bangalore. Seeks Brahmin qualified employed girl. Contact: 7356639126.	<b>NAIDU AGE48</b> MBA Mangr Fair, 1st Marriage Seeking Naidu Bride, Telugu Speaking Bride. 7092273099/ 7708074915	<b>URDU</b>
<b>NAIDU CASTE</b> NO BAR, H.SOME, 30/ 175, MBA, Business, Elite Fmly, Seeks any profi, 8754415378, 9566002501	<b>IVYER ROHINI</b> 56/186 MBA 80,000 pm. Own House & settled in Chennai seeks suitable Brahmin Bride. 9522086547	<b>TIRUPUR NAIDU</b> Boy 30/178 B.Tech (Auto) Rich family, Own Business Seeks Bride from Naidu (any subsect) from Tamilnadu only. Ct 9444038472	<b>URDU</b>
<b>MUDALIAR DIVORCEE, HANDSOME</b> , 31/ 177, B.E, Business, 70000PM, 10Cr, CASTE NO BAR, 8754415378, 9566002501	<b>IVYER BHARADWAJAM</b> Ketai 29/177 Handsome, BE, Family Business Manufacturing, Chennai seeks Educated Affluent Bride. Contact: 6379300815	<b>KAMMA NAIDU</b> / 28/ B.E., M.S., Own 2 Hospitals, well to do Rich Family seeks Bride 8939550566	<b>MARRIAGE BUREAU</b>
<b>IVENGAR VADAKALAI</b> Bharatwajam Thiruvonam 51 years, Commercial Tax Officer in Coimbatore seeks Iyengar / Iyer women 45 to 50 years as soulmate and life companion.Divorces / Widows excuse. Contact: 9940031274.	<b>IVYER BHARADWAJAM</b> Ketai 29/177 Handsome, BE, Family Business Manufacturing, Chennai seeks Educated Affluent Bride. Contact: 6379300815	<b>YADAVA</b> (Caste No Bar) 27/ M.B.B.S. S., M.D., well to do family Seeks Bride. 9498951000	
<b>IVYER BRAHACHARANAM</b> , Bharathwaja, Punarpoosam, June 75, M.A, Technical Manager Garments, 6Lac-PA, Seeks any any Brahmin, Widows allowed. Cont: 9015989924 / 7200404415/ 9444188254.	<b>IVYER KOUNDINYA</b> Thiruvonam 42yrs, 6Lp/a Chennai seeks suitable any Brahmin/eng Bride (Divorcee Can also Contact). 0424864163/ 9790837245	<b>AGE 48</b> , Naidu, Well-Settled. Seeks Below Age 40 Bride. Widow/Divorce OK. Chennai. Ct: 08838607416	<b>GENERAL</b>
<b>IVYER 55</b> CA, Law, MBA Top Executive MNC Chennai. Email: vedraman@rediffmail.com or Call: 9840745561.	<b>VADAMAL KOUNDINYA</b> Pooradatti March 89/165/ 1Lac, BE MBA, Manager Technology & Customer Care, Own Family Business/Chennai Sai Sankara Matrn) Seeks Iyer Bride, Horoscope, Star Matching Not a must. Ct: 9894033572	<b>BALIA NAIDU</b> 37, divorcee, BE, Scientist E, DRDO, GOI, Hyderabad, Anusham, seeks unmarried family oriented aged 28-33 decent family. Contact 91 8500308934.	<b>BUSINESS OFFER</b>
<b>SANKRUTI ASWINI</b> 1975/176, MBA(Fin) @ TCS (UK for Project) & Brother Hastham 1976/172, BBA FDM(NIFT) Garment Business seeks Bride. 9884028576	<b>TAMIL IYER</b> boy 46/174 Financially Sound Top Ranking Carnatic Music Mridangist in Chennai seeks any Brahmin girl.Educational Qualification & Financial status NoBar Ct: nmanojisiva@yahoo.com / 0445513329/ 9884037195	<b>TELUGU DEVANGA</b> 30 B.E, MBA, CTS Chennai, 8.4L PA, Raghu Kethu Seval Dosham, seeks B.E / MBA / MCA Bride. Contact: 9003118758	<b>FINANCE</b>
<b>VADAMAL ATHREYA</b> Revathi 27/196 BE, AsstEngr.TNEB 50kpm seek state/ centralgovt brahmin bride.9445012678	<b>Vallalar Born</b> Again. 51 yrs / 180 cm MBA, PGDCA, Cent. Govt. Wheatish, Slim, Young look,Teetotaler, 1st Marriage, Seeks graduate bride. Ct: 8838613427, math1967@gmail.com	<b>GAVARA POORADAM</b> 29/175 BE MNC 7 LPA. Seeks Suitable Girl. 9443303955	<b>FINANCE</b>
<b>VADAMAL SRIVATSAM</b> Hastham 39/180 M.E., Tata Vistara, New Delhi. 25L p.a. seeks educated bride. 9444379983	<b>HINDU NADAR</b> , January 1991, Magaram, Chartered Accountant, 1 Lac PM, Upper Class seeks Doctor/ CA /Engg/ PG Bride. Ct: 94420 64270	<b>KAMMA (CHENNAI)</b> 25/172 BE, MBA handsome businessman 50Cr share/ seeks any graduate. 9365599044/ 9842314444	<b>FINANCE</b>
<b>VADAMA HARITHA</b> Visakam well Settled Auditor 51/175cm Seeks Alliance from Educated Bride Cont: 09742529628	<b>Coimbatore Gounder</b> (Kannada) 35Y MBA MNC legally Divorced Seeks fair Educated girl 26-32Y 9443060030.	<b>BALJANANAI</b> 28/177 B.Tech, MS-Engg/ Google/USA \$120K p.a. 9840697456/ 9380474999	<b>FINANCE</b>
<b>ALLIANCE</b> For my brother M.Com, 1979 Iyer, Vadamal, Koushika, Pvt Employee at Chennai, 5 lac PA, expectation of any Brahmin Girl contact with details to 9840758442	<b>IVYER 30/182</b> B.Tech CentralGovt/Trichy 37K, Hearing Impaired Self Dependent seeks Brahmin Girl. Cont: 7598692270	<b>CASTENOBAR</b> 29/176 BE, MS/Engg/Apple/USA \$100K p.a. seeks any graduate. 9360602501, 9056272922	<b>FINANCE</b>

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CHENNAI AIRPORT, 1KM Pallavaram on GST Road 2000sq.ft. land Ct: 094446 26222 suresh_4191@yahoo.co.in	Behind UCO Bank, Dr.Mukherji Ngr. Delhi. www.careerquest.co.in Ph. 9811299811, 9990840999	<b>Rajesh Sir's Initiative</b> 7 Oct. 7 pm
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IN BRIEF



**Uttarakhand CM inaugurates road tunnel**  
DEHRADUN  
Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Saturday inaugurated the much awaited tunnel on NH-72 that connects the city with New Delhi. The new tunnel is expected to decongest traffic on the route. PTI

**Former SP leader alleges attack by Bajrang Dal**  
ALIGARH  
Former Samajwadi Party spokesperson Pankhuri Pathak claimed she and her team members were attacked on Saturday allegedly by Bajrang Dal activists here when they tried to meet families of two persons killed in a "fake" encounter here. PTI

**1 killed, 6 injured in clash over property**  
BHADOHI (U.P.)  
One person was killed and six others were injured in a clash between two groups over a property dispute in Mehjooda village under the Suryava police station here, police said on Saturday. The two groups, armed with lathis, clashed with each other, leaving Rama Chaudhan dead, Circle Officer Abhishek Pandey said. PTI

**Two killed, one hurt in Rajasthan accident**  
KOTA  
Two people were killed and one injured when a speeding car hit a divider and overturned on NH-27 in Baran district on on Saturday afternoon, police said. Six members of a family were travelling in the vehicle which was headed for Udaipur, they said. PTI

**Woman allegedly commits suicide in U.P.**  
MUZAFFARNAGAR  
A 27-year-old married woman allegedly shot herself at her home here, police said on Saturday. The reason behind this extreme step is yet to be ascertained, Superintendent of Police at Mandi Police Station Sudhir Kumar said. PTI

# Rally versus rally in Punjab

Congress, Akalis set to hold rallies in each other's strongholds today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The ruling Congress and the Opposition Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab are all set to hold rallies in each other's strongholds on Sunday in an attempt to showcase their political strength.

While the Akali Dal will hold a protest rally in Patiala - the home constituency of Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh - the Congress has decided to organise a rally in Lambi's Killianwali over the "sacrilege" issue. Lambi is the stronghold of the Akali Dal and is currently represented by former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal in the Assembly.

**Show of strength**  
Ahead of their slated rallies, senior leaders of both the parties are confident of out-doing each other, politically. Capt. Amarinder on Saturday said: "My government has taken many initiatives in the last 18 months to rebuild



Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. •



Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal. •

Punjab and take it to greater heights. We are tackling the drug menace, helping farmers and facilitating employment. Will share details with the people on October 7 at the rally in Lambi."

The Akali Dal's rally, apart from highlighting the alleged repression by the ruling Congress in the recently concluded rural polls, would focus on putting pressure on the government to solve the several problems being faced by the people.

"Tomorrow's [Sunday]

rally in Patiala will expose the tyranny, cheap politics and anti-people policies of the Congress government. The people of Punjab have made SAD's previous rallies successful and I am sure we will create a new benchmark tomorrow with their support," tweeted SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal.

"This [Congress] government has brought governance, development and social welfare activity in the State to a halt. The rally would be the first in a series

of initiatives by the Akali Dal to enforce accountability on the ruling party for its failure to honour its manifesto commitments," said senior Akali leader Harcharan Bains.

The women wing of the Akali Dal, meanwhile, accused the Congress of creating obstacles in the way of women activists' journey to Patiala for the rally.

"There have been reports that the government is putting restrictions in its bid to scuttle the movements of the party activists," alleged the president of Istri Akali Dal, Jagir Kaur.

**Grand rally**  
Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar on Saturday said that the party was prepared for a grand rally and would expose the misdeeds of Parkash Singh Badal and his son Sukhbir Badal against the 'Panth' (Sikh community) and how they damaged the authority of religious institutions," he said.

## Pollution in paradise



Blue to green: A view of a polluted part of the famous Dal Lake in Srinagar on Saturday. • NISSAR AHMAD

# Akalis demand reduction of VAT on fuel to cut price

Threaten State-wide agitation if the Congress government does not oblige in two days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal on Saturday asked the ruling Congress government to reduce Value Added Tax on fuel to lower the prices of petrol and diesel or otherwise be ready to face a State-wide

agitation.

**'Govt. turned blind eye'**  
Former Minister and senior SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia said the Congress government had turned a blind eye to the suffering of the common man, especially

farmers, by refusing to reduce petrol and diesel prices.

"This despite an announcement made recently by Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar that the State would reduce its taxes on petro-products after the Centre

did the same. Now that the Centre has taken this step, will Mr. Jakhar hold a dharna outside the office of the Finance Minister?" he asked.

**'Don't deny relief'**  
"If within next two days fuel prices are not reduced by

Punjab government, we will stage protests. Several State governments had effected an immediate reduction in fuel prices and there was absolutely no reason why the Punjab government should deny this relief to its people," said Mr. Majithia.

# BJP MP, aides 'assault' toll booth staff

Nandkumar Chauhan was asked to show his I-card for exemption

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHIVPURI (M.P.)

A video purportedly showing former Madhya Pradesh BJP president and MP Nandkumar Singh Chauhan and his aides beating up employees of a toll booth on the Shivpuri- Guna road has gone viral on social media.

No police complaint has been lodged in connection with the alleged incident, police said.

Mr. Chauhan's vehicle was stopped on Friday evening at the toll plaza located near Purankhe-

di village, where the employees asked him for his identity proof (to seek exemption for paying toll), Booth Manager Mahendra Singh Tomar told reporters.

MPs and MLAs are exempted from paying toll on national highways.

When asked to show his ID proof, Mr. Chauhan, the Lok Sabha MP from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh, along with his aides, got into a verbal duel with the employees, Mr. Tomar said.

The BJP leader and his aides

came out of the vehicle and started abusing the booth's security guard, Ajendra Singh, he said.

Mr. Chauhan allegedly slapped Ajendra Singh and his aides assaulted another employee Shubhan Dixit, Mr. Tomar said.

The manager said the MP's aides also broke two walkie-talkie sets of the employees.

No complaint has been lodged in connection with the incident, which was captured in the CCTV cameras of toll booth, SP Rajesh Hingankar said on Saturday.

# SP students' wing bags top post in AU elections

Congress' NSUI springs a surprise by winning two posts

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

Though they lost ground this year, the student wing of the Samajwadi Party continues to be the leading force in the prestigious Allahabad University Students' Union elections, results for which were declared in the early hours of Saturday.

The Samajwadi Chatra Sabha grabbed two posts, president and joint secretary. However, the National Students' Union of India of the Congress sprung a surprise as it also bagged two posts, vice-president and cultural secretary, in what is its best performance in over a decade.

**One seat fore ABVP**  
The student wing of the RSS-BJP, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, was restricted to a single seat, general secretary, which it had also won in 2017.

The SCS had secured the post of president, vice-president, joint secretary and cultural secretary of the central varsity last year, winning four out of the five posts.

The counting of the polls turned controversial as the



The gutted hostel room of newly-elected AUSU chief Uday Prakash Yadav which was set on fire. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

hostel in which the winning candidate for the president's post - Uday Prakash Yadav of the SCS - is living was set on fire by miscreants.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Allahabad, Nitin Tiwari said that six to seven rooms in the Holland hostel were set on fire and that all items inside Mr. Uday Yadav's room were gutted.

The room of last year's president Awanish Yadav, also of the SCS, was also gutted, while his car was set on fire. Several motorbikes were also gutted.

The police are probing

the case and an FIR will be registered.

Mr. Uday Yadav alleged that police laxity had led to the incident, which he said tarnished the tradition of the Central varsity. The SCS alleged that the losing ABVP was behind the incident.

"This is not an ordinary incident. But the police administration is silent because the BJP, known for its misuse of government machinery, has been dealt a cracking defeat," said Mr. Uday Yadav, who is a first-year law student from Deoria.

## AAP seeks action against Badals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Aam Aadmi Party leaders on Saturday observed a day-long hunger strike outside Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's official residence here.

AAP leaders including Leader of the Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema and other MLAs who sat on the strike pressed for immediate action against former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and former Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal in connection with the sacrilege incidents and the subsequent police action in 2015, on the basis of the Justice (retd) Ranjit Singh Commission report.

The Commission, that probed the Kotkapura and Behbal Kalan police firing incidents of 2015 which followed the Bargari sacrilege incident, in its report - tabled in the Punjab Assembly - had said the former Chief Minister was "quite aware" of the situation developing and about the proposed move by the police.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL DIVISION, CHATRA		
Request for Proposal (e-Procurement) Notice Reference No.-RDD/SD/CHATRA/01/2018-19 (Very Short Tender)		
S. No.	Name of Work	
1	Estimated Cost	Construction of H.L. RCC Bridge Over Dhoy River in Humajang Lipda to Ghorighat Road under Block-Pratapnagar, Dist-Chatra. Rs. 863.18200 Lacs (Eight Crore Sixty Three Lacs Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred) Only.
2	Completion period for construction	24 Months
3	Mode of Submission of tender	Online through www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in
4	Tender Fee and EMD	Tender Fee Rs. 10,000.00 EMD- Rs. 17,27,000.00 (Seventeen Lac Twenty Seven Thousand) Only.
5	Date of Publication of Tender on website	12/10/2018
6	Pre-bid meeting date	22/10/2018
7	Date/Time of receipt of bids	Start Date-23/10/2018 at 11:00 am. End Date- 01/11/2018 at 05:00 pm
8	Technical bid opening date	Date :-06/11/2018 Time:- 02:00 pm
9	Name and address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer Rural Development Special Division, Chatra
10	Contact no. of procurement officer	94313-55656
11	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	06541-253806

**TENDER NOTICE**  
On behalf of Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited, Ranchi seal tenders in two parts (Part-I Technical & Commercial bid, Part-II price bid) are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound firm for following items at TTPS, Lalpania :-

SL. No	NIT	Description	Due date of bid submission
01	26/EM/P/TV NL/RAN/2018-19	Procurement of 1C X 500 sq. mm unarmoured copper cable at TTPS, Lalpania.	03.11.2018 Up to 14:00 Hours.

The tender documents can be downloaded from our website [www.tvnl.in](http://www.tvnl.in)

**Sd/-**  
**समस्या का समाधान तुरंत डायल करें - 181 (S. K. Choudhary) ESE(C&M-II)**  
PR 193472 (Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd., 18-19 (D)

## Youth Cong. leader held in Himachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NAHAN

An office bearer of Himachal Pradesh Youth Congress was arrested by police on Saturday after some derogatory slogans against the Prime Minister were found on walls in the heart of the town.

State Secretary of Himachal Pradesh Youth Congress O.P. Thakur was later released on bail but the arrest sparked protest by the outfit which alleged that the police was acting under pressure from the ruling BJP.

The objectionable slogans were found on the walls of Mehlat, Mahima library and Shimla road area here.

## PATIALA AVIATION CLUB, PATIALA

**PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT SPARE PARTS**  
Bids are invited from suppliers and dealers for supply of spare parts for Cessna 172R/S & Cessna FA152. A detailed advertisement in this regard along with list of spare parts may be seen at [www.pamecpatiala.com](http://www.pamecpatiala.com). Bids must reach the office of the Manager, PAC by October 27, 2018 till 05:00 pm. PAC reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Manager

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, ROAD DIVISION, GUMLA		
e-Procurement Notice e-Tender Reference No. RCD/GUMLA/1003 Date :- 04.10.2018		
1.	Name of the work	(IRQP WORK OF NETARHAT SUNSET, SUNRISE, TOURISM & AWASIYA VIDYALYA ROAD, YEAR -2018-19 (Total Length-20.07 km)
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 64282784.00 (Six Crore forty two lacs eighty two thousand seven hundred eighty four only)
3.	Time of Completion	Six (6) Months
4.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	29.10.2018 Up to 12:00 Noon
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	08.10.2018 From 10:30 A.M.
6.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Road Division, Gumla.
7.	Contact no. of e-Procurement officer	06524-222097
8.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-240110

Further details can be seen on website Sd/- <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Gumla.  
PR193441 (Road)18-19"D Road Division, Gumla.

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER	
The Executive Engineer, Sagalee Division, PWD, Arunachal Pradesh, Sagalee invites on behalf of Governor of Arunachal Pradesh online item rate bids on single bid system for following work :- NIT No. SLD/TSD/SIDF/2017-18 (2018-19)/116. Name of work : C/o Nyishi Heritage village at Hoj. Estimated Cost : Rs.3,49,20,000.00, Earnest Money : Rs.3,49,200.00 for APST contractor & Rs. 6,98,400.00 for Non-APST Contractor, Period of completion : 24 months & Last date and time of submission of bid : 22/10/2018- 1600 Hrs.	
The tender forms and other details can be downloaded from the website <a href="https://pwdar.etenders.in">https://pwdar.etenders.in</a> from 1030 Hrs of 05/10/2018 to 1600 Hrs of 22/10/2018.	
The Press Notice is also available at the same website.	
DIPR/ARN/2679-81/18	

# VIJAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC) CORRIGENDUM

Rc.E9-134307/W.S/2015,

Dt. 05-10-2018

The corrigendum for the tender notice invited, vide this office NIT No. CE-06//VMC/AE/2018-19, Dt. 20.09.2018 (**Improvement of Water supply system in Vijayawada - Replacement of old distribution lines, execution of new lines, HSC and providing water quality sensors and flow regulating systems including Operation and Maintenance in Vijayawada Municipal Corporation area under AMRUT Scheme- EPC System work**) was issued for scheduled dates and the eligibility criteria and the same may be seen in e-procurement portal.

S.No.	Description	For	Read
1	Schedule Closing date and time	08-10-2018 upto 3.30 PM	16-10-2018 upto 3.30 PM
2	Schedule submission closing date and time	08-10-2018 upto 4.00 PM	16-10-2018 upto 4.00 PM
3	Technical bid opening date	08-10-2018 upto 4.30 PM	16-10-2018 upto 4.30 PM
4	Clause No. 6 A (IV) Page No.31	Should have supplied/ installed minimum 5828 Nos. of residential Ultrasonic AMR meters (15mm/20mm or 25mm)	Should have supplied/installed minimum 5828 Nos. of Ultrasonic/Electromagnetic/Mechanical AMR/Multi-jet meters/ (15mm/20mm or 25mm)

**Note: Remaining terms and conditions are un-altered**

**Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER**



IN BRIEF



Naidu favours recall petition in Babli case

**VIJAYAWADA**  
A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday reportedly decided to get a recall petition filed again in the Dharmabadi court in Maharashtra. The court issued a non-bailable warrant against him and 15 other relating to the staging of a protest at the Babli project eight years ago.

AMMA to seek opinion on issues raised by actors

**KOCHI**  
The Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) will seek legal opinion on various issues raised by actors Revathi, Padmapriya, and Parvathy, who are part of the Women in Cinema Collective. The issues include an explanation on the decision taken by an AMMA general body to reinstate actor Dileep, an accused in the sexual assault of a woman actor.

Bishop Franco Mulakkal's remand extended

**KOTTAYAM**  
The Pala judicial first class magistrate court has extended the judicial remand of Jalandhar Bishop Franco Mulakkal till October 20. The bishop, who had been in judicial custody for 14 days, was produced before the magistrate on Saturday.

Anti-smuggling task force seizes red sanders logs

**CHITTOOR**  
The Andhra Pradesh Red Sanders anti-smuggling task force team took possession of several red sanders logs hidden in bushes at the foothills of the Seshachalam Hills near Kalyani dam in Chittoor district on Saturday after several hours of combing, said Task Force inspector Vasu.

# IMD scales down red alert in Kerala

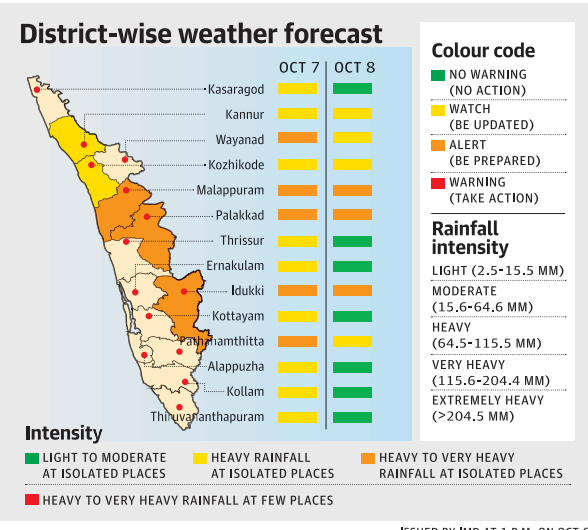
Forecasters watching weather system in Bay

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala heaved a sigh of relief on Saturday after the India Meteorological Department (IMD) scaled down its red alert for two districts but the government machinery continued to be in a state of readiness as the weather agency forecast heavy rainfall under the influence of a well-marked low pressure area in the Arabian Sea.

A weather bulletin issued by the IMD on Saturday scaled down the red alert for Idukki and Malappuram to orange alert, indicating rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places, till Monday.

Friday's low pressure area over southeast Arabian Sea and neighbourhood became well marked by Saturday and lay centred over southeast



and adjoining east-central Arabian Sea. It is very likely to concentrate into a depression and move northwestward during the next 24 hours.

It is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm and move towards the Oman coast thereafter.

The IMD has forecast

squalls and rough sea conditions over the Arabian Sea. Fishermen have been advised not to venture out to the sea till October 11.

The National Weather Forecasting Centre is also keeping an eye out for another low pressure area likely to form over the central and adjoining south Bay of Bengal

around October 8. It is likely to become more marked and move towards Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts during the subsequent 72 hours.

The weather office has issued an orange alert for Idukki, Palakkad and Malappuram districts till Monday and Pathanamthitta and Wayanad till Sunday.

Dam shutter raised

One shutter of the Cheruthoni dam of the Idukki reservoir was raised by 70 cm at 11 a.m. releasing 50 cumecs (cubic metres per second) of water into the Periyar on Saturday. The dam shutter was raised considering the forecast of heavy rain and the chances of water being released from the Mullaperiyar dam to the Periyar.

As the weather predictions of the IMD were changing, a decision on lowering the shutter may be taken only after Sunday, KSEB sources said.

## NE monsoon to set in tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Fanned by twin weather systems in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the northeast monsoon is expected to set in around Monday, more than a week ahead of its normal date.

The all-India weather summary and forecast bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department on Saturday said the northeast monsoon was likely to commence over Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and adjoining parts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka around October 8. This coincides with the early withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from the remaining parts of the country.

# Pinarayi reaches out to Tantri's family on Sabarimala

Gets positive response; talks likely on Monday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is likely to hold talks with the family of the Sabarimala Tantri and representatives of the Pandalam Palace on Monday in a bid to clear the air on the government's intentions vis-a-vis the Supreme Court verdict allowing the entry of women into the temple.

The Chief Minister's Office formally got in touch with the Tantri family and the palace, and received a positive response from both.

"Our intention is to clarify matters to them," said top



Pinarayi Vijayan

sources in the government when asked about the development.

The talks are likely to take place on Monday. But there is no question of the government holding talks with any

## BJYM rally turns violent

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PATHANAMTHITTA

There was tension at Aranmula after a march taken out by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) workers to the residence of Travancore Devaswom Board president A. Padmakumar turned violent on Saturday. The protesters claimed the Board was taking decisions to violate

the customs and traditions at Sabarimala in the wake of the Supreme Court verdict permitting entry of women of all ages into the temple.

Addressing the march, BJYM president Prakashbabu said workers would be at Nilackal, Pampa, and the Sannidhanam to resist any onslaught on the customs of the Sabarimala temple.

by the party secretariat at a meeting here on Friday.

In a carefully worded statement, the secretariat pointed out that the government was duty-bound to implement the Supreme Court

verdict and called upon it to hold talks with all those who were connected with the Sabarimala temple on the best way to do this.

It also made it clear that while every believing woman had the right to go to the temple, it was not the job of the CPI(M) to take women to Sabarimala.

Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran said the present government had just endorsed an affidavit filed by the Left Democratic Front government in 2007 urging the Supreme Court to appoint a commission, comprising of eminent scholars with deep knowledge of the subject and incorruptible social activists, to decide the question of women's entry into the temple.

# Gopinath's plea against Debt Tribunal rejected

He failed to make pre-deposit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has rejected petitions filed by Capt. G.R. Gopinath questioning the rejection of his appeal by the Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT), Chennai.

The court had held him liable to pay, as guarantor, the loan amount of ₹155.06 crore borrowed by Deccan Cargo and Express Logistics Pvt. Ltd.

Deccan 360

The company was operating under the brand name 'Deccan 360' before being ordered to wind up in 2013.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Dinesh Maheshwari and Justice Krishna S. Dixit delivered the verdict.

On November 30, 2016,

the DRAT directed Capt. Gopinath and his company Deccan Emerging Business Ventures Ltd. to pre-deposit ₹50 crore, which was approximated as 25% of the loan amount determined by the Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT).

This was in terms of Section 21 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, for entertaining the appeal against the decree passed by the DRAT in May that year.

The DRAT, on January 6, 2017, dismissed the appeal as the plaintiff failed to deposit the amount.

The DRAT also rejected their plea for more time to make the pre-deposit, citing a petition filed in the High Court and personal financial hardship.

## Driver lets monkey steer bus, derostered

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

A bus driver of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has been taken off duty for allegedly allowing a monkey to steer its wheel in Davangere district on October 1, an official said on Saturday.

"Driver M. Prakash, 36, who was at the wheel has been taken off duty for allowing the monkey to sit on the steering and handle it," said KSRTC spokesperson T.S. Latha.

The monkey got on the bus along with a passenger and was sitting on the left seat before jumping onto the steering wheel.

About 30 passengers were travelling in the bus when the incident occurred.

# How monkeys stop trains on their tracks

A vexed SCR has come out with an 'anti-monkey climbing circuit' to shock them away

V. GEETANATH HYDERABAD

There's no business that's not monkeys'. Anything to climb and cling on to is game.

They are now playing havoc with railway systems too. Their antics disrupt train services and send schedules haywire as happened recently in a key section under the South Central Railway (SCR).

A barrel of monkeys tripped an overhead power line and caused a three-hour long delay of a goods train, which affected other train services a few days ago on the busy Kazipet section. Reason? This particular section does not yet have the unique, in-house developed 'anti-monkey climbing circuit'.

The monkeys began 'playing' with the railway equip-



Monkey menace: A file picture of a bonnet macaque that got stuck in between the overhead power lines. ■ M. SATHYAMOORTHY

ment in the super busy railway sections between Kazipet-Vijayawada and Kazipet-Balharshah routes in the

last few years, especially in the forest areas at Dornakal, Mahabubabad, Ramagundam and Raghavapuram.

"We have had various conventional methods to deal with the monkey menace like spiked cables, a slippery cylindrical drum attached, and the likes. But they are smart enough to get over these hurdles and cause havoc with our insulators and tripping the system," explains SCR's senior divisional engineer-traction Anand Chekkila.

Conceived and designed by the Secunderabad Division engineers, the 'anti-monkey climbing circuit' is powered through a solar panel and a mast is provided for the monkey to climb on to an overhead traction when it will get a powerful, yet "milli-second" shock sending the simian scurrying and warning its troop.

He and his team had devised the technology solu-

tion to arrest these incidents and showcased it to general manager Vinod Kumar Yadav and other senior officers.

Mr. Yadav was quick to adopt the concept and accorded permission for it to be installed on the Dornakal section from November last year. After it was tested successfully, the Railways plan to take it on a mass scale.

Milli-second shock mend

"There is absolutely no harm to the monkey when it gets the 2000-volt milli-second shock. It will scamper away and will never return to the spot," insists Mr. Anand. The innovative device, unique for Indian Railways, is to be put up in vulnerable locations to bring down power tripping incidents and reduce disruption in trains services. That's a benign remedy.

# EC order stalls issue of farmers' cheques

Rythu Bandhu Scheme on hold

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD

The Rythu Bandhu Scheme (RBS) cheques towards investment support for rabi crops could not be distributed among farmers in old union Adilabad district owing to the conditions imposed by the Election Commission.

According to officials of Agriculture Department, further orders are awaited in this regard as the EC had permitted the amount of ₹4,000 per acre to be directly transferred to the bank accounts of farmers.

In Adilabad district, the total number of pattadars who are beneficiaries of the RBS is 1.14 lakh in whose names the 1.16 lakh cheques involving a sum of ₹178.7 crore have been drawn. In Mancherial, the total number of pattadars is 1.22 lakh in whose names 1.23 lakh cheques worth ₹120 crore have been drawn.

Agriculture authorities



A file picture of one of the beneficiaries of the RBS receiving a cheque.

withheld the distribution of cheques received under the Rythu Bandhu scheme for Yasangi following the instructions of Chief Election Officer with the model code of conduct coming into effect.

"We will keep them safe and will take action as per the further instructions of the CEO and authorities," District Agriculture Officer M. Govind said.

## Hyderabad man sets woman ablaze

He also attempted to end his life

STAFF REPORTER HYDERABAD

A woman was set on fire by her lover as her family members refused to give permission for their marriage. The man, too, attempted to end his life by self-immolation at the woman's house in Tappachabutra here on Saturday. Both suffered third-degree burns and were shifted to the Osmania General Hospital for treatment, where the woman succumbed to her injuries.

According to the police,

Shabana Begum, 19, became friendly with Ibrahim of Barakas, 32, reportedly on Facebook, and began a relationship. Initially, the woman's parents accepted their marriage, but rejected it after they came to know that Mr. Ibrahim was already married.

Shabana's sister-in-law Azima Begum, 19, who tried to rescue her, also suffered burns. "Ibrahim wanted to kill her and end his life to take revenge on her parents," the police said.

# A safe haven for rare dragonflies

Kerala's Silent Valley is home to 82 species

K.A. SHAJI PALAKKAD

The buffer zone of the Silent Valley National Park here is emerging as one of the largest havens of dragonflies and damselflies with a recent survey confirming the presence of 82 species, among which 14 are extremely rare.

The survey, conducted jointly by the Forest Department and odonate enthusiasts under the Indian Dragonfly Society between September 28 and 30, found that Thudukki, Pathanthode, Thathengalam, and TK Colony in the buffer zone are providing them a conducive atmosphere for foraging, feeding, and breeding. Proximity to the core areas of the national park, with high-altitude Shola grasslands and different types of forests, availability of water, and good habitat diversity, are also the contributing factors.

"This is the first time that an exclusive survey was conducted in the buffer zone. Hitherto, they were focussed on the core zones of the national park. We had eight teams comprising experts and officials," Samuel V. Pachau, Wildlife Warden, Silent Valley, told *The Hindu*.

"Since the buffer zone shares boundary with human habitations, habitat diversity was ensured in the survey. The same reflected in the diversity of odonates. Among the 488 species of odonates found in India, the Western Ghats are home to 193," said V. Balachandran, secretary of Indian Dragonfly Society.

The rare species found include *Indosticta deccanensis* (Saffron Reedtail), *Burmagomphus laidlawi* (Plain Sinuate Clubtail), *Macrogomphus souteri* (Pigmy Clubtail), *Onychogomphus nilgiriensis* (Nilgiri Claw-



Rare find: Top, Nilgiri Torrent Dart, and Saffron Forest Damselfly. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tail), *Euphaea dispar* (Nilgiri Torrent Dart), *Indionyx travancorensis* (Travancore Daggerhead), *Megalogomphus hanningtoni* (Giant Clubtail), and *Lestes dorothea* (Spreadwing).

Flood impact

"It is a matter of concern that the number of several common species of damselflies found in the region is alarmingly low. This could be owing to the recent floods," Mr. Balachandran said. The floods might have carried away the larvae of damselflies downstream, he said. Odonates are amphibious (having aquatic larval form and terrestrial adult form) insects.

"The teams took remarkable efforts. The national park will conduct regular surveys in the following years too," Mr. Pachau said. A total of 25 experts from the Indian Dragonfly Society coordinated the survey. Well-known odonate watchers of the State, including V. Balachandran, V.C. Balakrishnan, C. Sushanth, Sujith V. Gopalan, and Muhammed Sherif, formed part of the survey.

"We have very little knowledge about the odonate diversity in the Silent Valley and its surroundings. There will be more coordinated efforts in the future," Mr. Balachandran said.



IN BRIEF



After duty cut, fuel prices climb again

**MUMBAI**  
Petrol prices rose across the four big metro cities on Saturday, just a day after the Union government reduced excise duty on the fuel. In Delhi, petrol cost ₹81.68 a litre, up from ₹81.50 on Friday. The price was ₹87.15 in Mumbai, ₹83.52 in Kolkata and ₹84.89 in Chennai. Diesel prices too rose on Saturday, except in Mumbai, where it eased by ₹1.70. IANS

Three held for tonsuring woman in Assam

**GUWAHATI**  
The police in Assam's Dhubri district arrested three women for tonsuring another woman and shredding her clothes for opposing the marriage of her 19-year-old son a year ago. Officials said Rashima Bibi, 39, was tonsured on October 2 by three women related to her former husband. "She wanted her son to get married on attaining the legal age of 21," the police said.

IMD withdraws code red weather warning

**CHENNAI**  
The India Meteorological Department on Saturday withdrew the code red weather warning, indicating extremely heavy rainfall, for the Western Ghats. S. Balachandran, Deputy Director General of Meteorology, Chennai, said the colour code was reduced to orange, instructing administrators to remain on standby.

NCLT orders liquidation of Rathna Stores

**CHENNAI**  
The Chennai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered liquidation of prominent retailer Rathna Stores Pvt Ltd. According to sources, the firm owed ₹80 crore to banks and ₹1 crore to operational creditors and had a tax liability of ₹25 crore. Its major lenders include ICICI Bank and UCO Bank. The insolvency proceedings were filed by ICICI Bank.

# What ails Delhi's Infectious Diseases Hospital?

31 children died of diphtheria in September; nearly half of the diphtheria cases reported globally are from India

**BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN**  
NEW DELHI

The leafy, unhurried campus of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation-run Maharishi Valmiki Infectious Diseases Hospital (MVIDH) masks an ugly truth. Witness to 31 child deaths due to diphtheria last month, with the number of cases and the death toll continuing to rise, this medical facility has become the face of everything that can go wrong with India's Universal Immunisation Programme and its subsequent disease management.

**Highly contagious**  
The 31 deaths, caused by the highly contagious disease of the upper respiratory system, could have been prevented through vaccination and strict surveillance. According to the findings of a probe committee set up by the Municipal Corporation, the children died despite being brought to the 150-bed

general hospital in the capital due to lack of anti-diphtheria serum, which wasn't procured on time. An enquiry has revealed that stocks of 1,400 vials at the MVID Hospital were exhausted by December 2, 2017, and the next batch of 200 anti-diphtheria serum arrived here only by September 23, 2018. By this time, several children were dead. Services at the hospital also suffer on account of lack of staff to attend to critical patients, absence of basic medical facilities such as isolation wards, intensive care units, ventilators, laboratories, X-ray services and ambulances. According to corporation records, over 550 people have died due to diphtheria in the capital between 2012 and 2017 – 56 deaths in 2012, 71 in 2013, 110 in 2014, 88 in 2015, 133 in 2016, and 102 in 2017. Most of the diphtheria pa-

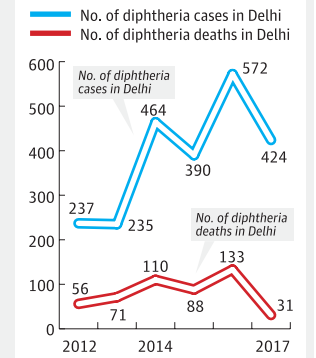


Killer bacteria

Diphtheria is a disease which infects the throat and upper airways

- The bacteria produces a toxin which causes dead tissue to build up over the throat and tonsils, making breathing and swallowing difficult
- Symptoms include sore throat, low fever and

- swollen glands in the neck
- Spreads through direct contact or when infected individuals cough or sneeze
- Treatment involves administration of antitoxin and antibiotics



tients, said doctors at the MVID Hospital, come from western Uttar Pradesh, and some are from within the city. Those from the city are mainly migrant labourers. "Almost all the children who are admitted have had no vaccination or [have undergone] incomplete vaccination. They come for treatment a week or more after the infection has set in, by

which time it becomes difficult to help them," said a doctor at MVID's diphtheria unit.

**Regular recurrence**  
Speaking about the regular recurrence of diphtheria cases in north India, mainly among children under nine years of age, Professor of Paediatrics, and Dean, Maulana Azad Medical College

(MAMC), Dr. Siddarth Ramji, said: "It is time we looked at some hard-hitting questions. We need to understand where these patients are reaching as their first contacts [whether private or public facilities], whether the Infectious Diseases Hospitals in their districts are capable of handling such cases, why they are being referred to Delhi, and the status of anti-

## Actor submits plaint against Nana Patekar

Dutta seeks action against director too

**GAUTAM S. MENGLE**  
MUMBAI

In a fresh development in the ongoing controversy surrounding actors Tanushree Dutta and Nana Patekar, she submitted an application to the Mumbai police on Saturday seeking an FIR against Mr. Patekar.

Ms. Dutta had recently spoken up about having been inappropriately touched by Mr. Patekar in 2008 on the sets of Bollywood movie *Horn OK Pleassss* while shooting a song sequence.

Mumbai police spokesperson DCP Manjunath Singe confirmed that Ms. Dutta had submitted the application at the Oshiwara police station late on Saturday. "Inquiries are being conducted. No FIR has been



Tanushree Dutta

registered as yet," Mr. Singe said.

An officer with the Oshiwara police told *The Hindu* that Ms. Dutta visited the station around 8.30 p.m. with her lawyer. The application also sought action against choreographer Ganesh Acharya and director Rakesh Sarang for their statements on the issue.

## Mumbai police reach out to harassment victim

Seek formal complaint against Utsav Chakraborty

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

The Mumbai police on Saturday once again reached out to a comedienne who accused comic Utsav Chakraborty of sexual harassment, stating that they could not take action in the absence of a formal complaint.

The woman, a writer, comic and performer, had set off a social media storm on Thursday after putting out a series of tweets alleging that Mr. Chakraborty had sent her lewd messages. Several other women had then responded by recalling their own experiences of sexual assaults and violence, calling out other men who had allegedly targeted them.



Utsav Chakraborty

On Saturday morning, the police, through their official Twitter handle, tweeted to the woman, saying, "We have been waiting to hear from you since last two days. Please understand that till the time you lodge a complaint, we cannot initiate le-

gal action. Request you to do the same or reply to us on DM to let us know if you need any assistance."

Later in the day, the comedienne tweeted, saying that she was undergoing "intense emotional trauma" and that she was going to stay away for a while. She also said: "Media and cops, please stop pressuring me... Please leave me alone for a while. Don't punish me for telling truth."

The police replied to her tweet saying, "You seem to have completely misunderstood our intention ma'am. It is our responsibility to encourage survivors to file a complaint because that is best first step to justice."

## Rabri gets bail in IRCTC hotels case

'Lalu unable to attend court hearing'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday granted interim bail to former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi, her son Tejashwi Yadav and others in a money laundering case connected with the Railways-IRCTC hotels' maintenance corruption case.

RJD chief Lalu Prasad is also an accused in the case but he could not appear as the Birs Munda Jail in Ranchi, where he is serving sentences in fodder scam cases, informed the court that he was not medically fit to travel.

Granting bail to the other accused till November 19, special judge Arun Bhargava ordered arrangements to be made for the appearance of Mr. Prasad through



Rabri Devi

video conferencing on November 19, the next date of hearing.

The court had earlier granted regular bail to all the accused, except Mr. Prasad, in the corruption case lodged by the CBI. The accused also surrendered their passports to the court. Rabri Devi informed the court that she did not have a passport.

## Putting first-time flyers at ease

Airports Authority of India creates a simulated experience of security drills

**JAGRITI CHANDRA**  
NEW DELHI

With the aim of dispelling any fear in first-time flyers and educating them about the mandatory security drill, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has recreated an airport experience at an international exhibition here.

The AAI, which manages 130 airports in the country, has replicated the security hold area by displaying a door frame metal detector, baggage scanning machine and explosive trace detector so that visitors get a taste of the security protocol followed at airports.

CISF personnel from the Indira Gandhi International Airport brief visitors on the procedure to be followed, take them through the drill, and explain how each of the machines work.

"*Hawai chappal waale log hawai jahaj mein safar karain* [people in slippers



**Practice session:** The AAI stall put up at the 21st India International Security Expo in New Delhi.

should be able to travel in flights] has been the slogan of PM Narendra Modi. Our endeavour through this exhibition is to simulate the airport experience for these first-time flyers, so when they visit an airport they are neither nervous nor confused. We also hope that by learning about the importance of the security protocol they will be more co-operative, thereby, helping us

enhance security at our airports," Capt. Raj K Malik, GM, Security at AAI told *The Hindu*.

"After visiting this stall I will be better aware about what to wear and what to carry while taking a flight. Often people lose their temper at airports and enter into an argument with security personnel and ask why they are being singled out. This experience helps us under-

stand that these are just mandatory requirements," said Mitali Gulati, a visitor.

'Builds confidence'

A CISF jawan at the expo said such drills help in building confidence among the people about the men in uniform who are an important interface at airports. "Often well-educated people breach security procedures and we have to be harsh with them. If they understand the importance of the security rules at the airport, we will also be able to perform our duties better," said the jawan.

The AAI has also displayed a full-body scanner, which is yet to be introduced at Indian airports, to prepare people for airports of the future.

The stall has been set up as part of the 21st India International Security Expo held in Delhi from October 5-7.

## Villagers thrash girl for eloping

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
PATNA

A girl was tied to a tree and beaten up for eloping with a man of another community at Jogiya Maran village in Nawada district of Bihar on the orders of the village panchayat.

The video of the weeping 18-year-old being thrashed by villagers and family members on October 3 went viral on social media. She fell unconscious several times.

The girl eloped with Rupesh Kumar, a Hindu, on September 30. They were caught by the villagers and brought back.

Her father, Mohd. Farid Ansari, justified the punishment. The police reached the spot and took the girl's statement. The perpetrators were not arrested and were merely given a warning by the police as no complaint was filed.

## Pet owner stabs van driver to death

Victim's vehicle brushed against dog

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

A cargo van driver was allegedly stabbed to death by a man after his vehicle accidentally brushed past the latter's pet dog in Dwarka's Uttam Nagar on Saturday.

The deceased's brother was also injured in the incident, the police said.

They received a PCR call at 12.50 am from Uttam Nagar's Mohan Garden regarding two men being stabbed. A team reached the spot and rushed the injured to a hospital.

Vijender Rana (40) was declared dead on arrival while Rajesh (45) is undergoing treatment.

The accused – Ankit, his brother Paras and his tenant Dev Chopra – live in the same area.

"Based on the complaint by Vijender's wife, Seema, a case has been registered under Indian Penal Code Section 302 [murder] and 307 [attempt to murder] against the accused at Uttam Nagar police station," said Anto Alphonse, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka).

**ICMR School of Public Health**  
**ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY**  
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**MPH Admission Notice – 2019**

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Information Brochure and prescribed application form are available on the Institute's Website: [www.nie.gov.in](http://www.nie.gov.in) (Email: [niecmr@gmail.com](mailto:niecmr@gmail.com), Phone: 044-26136420/26136419).

Date: 7th October 2018

Director

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FROM PAGE ONE

## Picking out silent ghosts in the deep



Help at hand: Rescuers freeing a turtle that was found entangled in a fishing net. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Temple Adventures, a recreational scuba diving operator, has been conducting ghost net removal programmes since its inception in 2008, and with support from the Wildlife Trust of India since February 2018.

**Removing ghost nets, especially in rocky sections and coral reefs, is a tough, labour-intensive task**

ROBERT PANIPILLA  
Friends of Marine Life

### Dive against debris

"We usually find ghost nets about 12 km off the coast of Puducherry, at depths of about 50 m. They are also washed to shallower sites at a depth of about 18 m, about 5 km off the shoreline," said Ms. Jagannathan. TRF organises 'Dive against Debris' sessions, where certified divers volunteer for underwater clean-ups.

Similarly, a retrieval drive in March by Thiruvananthapuram-based NGO Friends of Marine Life collected 400 kg of ghost nets in 90 minutes from several places off the coast of the Kerala capital. "Identifying and removing ghost nets, especially in rocky sections and coral reefs, is a tough, labour-intensive task," said Robert Panipilla of Friends of Marine Life.

The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corpora-

tion's Indian Institute of Scuba Diving and Aquatic Sports (IISDAS) has also begun retrieving ghost nets along the coast of Sindhudurg, in collaboration with the UNDP-Global Environment Facility, training youth from coastal communities in scuba diving.

### Big loss

"Nets covering an area of 0.2 sq km were removed from the bottom of the sea near Sindhudurg, after about 800 hours of scuba diving," said Dr. Sarang Kulkarni, Marine Biologist and Chief Instructor, IISDAS.

"Even if 1 kg of fish is tangled per year per square kilometre, it [the loss of aquatic life to ghost nets] can reach over 200 tonnes annually. To address the issue of ghost fishing nets, India needs to put an in situ action plan in place."

# Congress playing dirty politics: PM

Modi accuses party of dividing the people on the grounds of caste, class, region and religion

MOHAMMED IQBAL  
AJMER

Accusing the Congress of dividing the people on the grounds of caste, class, region and religion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the party was indulging in appeasement and "vote-bank politics" and working with a "narrow vision" to serve the interests of a single family which it treated as its high command.

"My high command comprises the 7.5 crore people of Rajasthan who will bring the BJP back to power," Mr. Modi said while addressing a huge rally here which marked the completion of Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje's Gaurav Yatra. The gathering, named "Vijay Sankalp Rally", was attended by the BJP's booth-level workers and the public from Ajmer and nearby towns.

The rally was organised just two hours ahead of the announcement of dates of the Assembly elections in Rajasthan and four other States by the Election Commission.



PM Narendra Modi and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje in Ajmer on Saturday. • PTI

Mr. Modi said the vote-bank politics had even divided the bureaucracy, which tries to please the ruling party. "For 60 years, the Congress has adopted this model of governance, fomenting confrontation between different sections and promoting

divisive tendencies in society. It has worked only for those communities which vote for it," he said.

Even the budget was allocated to play vote-bank politics for the benefit of a few sections, Mr. Modi said and added that those who had

failed in governance while being in power had also utterly failed in playing the role of a responsible Opposition.

"After 60 years, the country is heading in the right direction. Our policy is clear, our dedication is unmatched and our intentions cannot be

questioned. Don't give another chance to the Congress, which has only created difficulties for the country," Mr. Modi said.

### 'Stooped low'

Mr. Modi said the Congress had stooped low by playing "dirty politics" on surgical strikes by the Army across the Line of Control two years ago. "They raised doubts about the brave act of our soldiers. They should be ashamed of indulging in such politics, when our youth are getting inspiration from surgical strikes on their [second] anniversary," he said.

Just before the enforcement of the model code of conduct with the announcement of election dates, Ms. Raje announced a package of free electricity for farmers up to a certain level. While Ms. Raje sought the national project status for the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project, which will benefit 13 districts, Mr. Modi said the decision would be taken after technical studies.

## Raje's power package a desperate step: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

The Congress in Rajasthan on Saturday described Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje's announcement of a package of free electricity for farmers as a "desperate step" to win the December 7 Assembly elections. "This is not going to make any impact on the electorate who have turned wise after their disillusionment with BJP rule," Pradesh Congress president Sachin Pilot said here.

Mr. Pilot said the package's announcement in a political rally in Ajmer just an hour before the Election Commission took the decision on the poll dates was an "immoral step". "It will shift the burden to the next government which will be required to find financial resources for its implementation," he said.

### Plight of farmers

Mr. Pilot flayed Ms. Raje's "complete disregard" of the plight of farmers in the State who were forced to commit suicide after loss of crops, inability to repay loans and agrarian crisis. "A package announced by a Chief Minister who has forced scores of farmers to kill themselves sounds like a hollow claim," he said.

The Rajasthan Congress chief said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim in the rally that all areas in Rajasthan were getting 24-hour electricity was false and even the State Capital was facing load shedding in the power sector. Besides, Mr. Modi had disappointed the State's people by expressing his "political malice" in the last phase of BJP's rule, he said.

## On the draw

SURENDRA



## 'cVigil' on the trail of poll fraudsters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Saturday said the "cVigil" mobile application for citizens to share proof of malpractices by political parties, candidates and activists would be available for use soon after the notification of polls in five States.

The Commission had launched the application's beta version in July, following a pilot project in Bengaluru in the run-up to the Karnataka Assembly polls in

May. It provides facilities for uploading geo-tagged photographic and video evidence, which can also be done without disclosing the sender's identity.

The evidence will be sent to a control room, which will then alert the field units and flying squads for immediate action. The EC hopes to launch the application ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election, by improving it further on the basis of the findings during the conduct of the Assembly polls.

## EC sets month-long schedule for 5 States



Chief Election Commissioner O.P. Rawat flanked by Election Commissioners Sunil Arora, left, and Ashok Lavasa, in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

The EC also put off an announcement on the schedule of bypolls to two Assembly seats in Tamil Nadu. Since an election petition pertaining to one of the constituencies was still pending in the Madras High Court, technically the vacancy had not arisen yet, the CEC said.

Besides, around 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu had requested the EC on the phone to postpone the elections citing the weather forecast, and stating that the State administration might have to undertake relief works during the period.

The Commission later received a letter from the Chief Secretary around 1 p.m. on the same issue, the CEC said.

Taking cognisance of these facts, the EC had to revisit its earlier decisions, which led to the change in the timing of announcement of schedules from 12-30 p.m. to 3 p.m., said Mr. Rawat.

Bypolls to Karnataka's Shimoga, Bellary and Mandya parliamentary constituencies; besides Ramanagaram and Jamkhandi assembly constituencies, will be held on November 3.

## No question of alliance with BJP, says Shivpal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GORAKHPUR

Samajwadi Secular Morcha leader Shivpal Singh Yadav on Saturday ruled out forming an alliance with the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, saying "we are secular people".

Mr. Yadav launched his front on August 29, after being allegedly sidelined in the Samajwadi Party by his estranged nephew and SP president Akhilesh Yadav.

"We are secular people and we have always been against the Bharatiya Janata Party. We are secular samajwadis (socialists) and there is no question of joining the BJP," Mr. Yadav told reporters.

He was responding to Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's statement that he can contest the election on a BJP ticket if he wishes to.

To a question on extending support to his elder brother Mulayam Singh Yadav in Mainpuri in the election, he said: "I've offered him to contest as a Samajwadi Secular Morcha candidate from Mainpuri... But even if he contests from any other party, we will support him."

He declined to comment on the possibility of an alliance between the BSP and the SP, saying it was up to Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav.

## Mizoram is the BJP's final frontier

Ruling six of eight northeastern States, party wants to breach last Cong. bastion

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

Mizoram, which goes to the polls on November 28, may well be the final frontier for the Bharatiya Janata Party, which rules six of the eight north-eastern States either on its own or in alliance with regional parties that have been traditional rivals of the Congress.

Mizoram is the only State in the north-east where the Congress is in power. But for the grand old party, which is eyeing a third successive term, the hurdle in retaining its last bastion in the north-east lies not only in checking its long-time rival, the Mizo National Front (MNF), but also the two alliances of smaller regional parties.

### Minor ally

The MNF is a member of the BJP-helmed North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), as is the National People's Party that plans to make a foray into Mizoram after heading the government in Meghalaya and becoming a minor ally of the BJP in Manipur and Nagaland.

The BJP, though, has said the NEDA should not be confused with a political al-

### Bracing for polls

#### Issues

**New land use policy:** The Congress is accused of favouritism in selecting beneficiaries and of large-scale corruption, besides ruining the ecology with the cultivation of alien crops

**Bru refugees:** The majority of Mizos consider the Congress to have declined to return to Mizoram from refugee camps in Tripura due to an "inadequate" rehabilitation package, to be denied voting rights

**Quota for ethnic minorities:** The Mizos consider the Chakmas, like the Brus, as non-indigenous and thus not worthy of quota; other minor tribes such as Lai and Mara have issues too

India		
Mizoram		Total seats: 40
Result	2008	2013
Congress	32	34
MNF	3	5
Others	5	1

**Liquor:** Mizoram was a dry State until the Congress amended rules to allow liquor sale three years ago; the regional parties have vowed to enforce the ban if voted to power

**Border dispute:** Violence along Mizoram's border with Assam has been a major political issue

liance. "We are here to contest all the 40 seats in Mizoram and hope to form a BJP-led government. But we would not mind allying with like-minded parties after the polls to form a government," Ram Madhav, BJP general secretary in charge of the north-east, said a few days ago.

MNF president and former Chief Minister Zoramthanga debunked the theory that his party was the 'B team' of

the BJP. "We have won on our own in the past, and we are confident that the people will teach the corrupt Congress government a lesson," he said.

The MNF, which ruled for 10 years since 1998 but won only five seats in the 40-member House against the Congress's 34 in the 2013 Assembly elections, has been upbeat after two Congress MLAs quit and joined it. One of them is Lalziriana, form-

er Home Minister who was considered the second-most powerful leader in the Congress after Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla.

Mr. Thanhawla believes anti-incumbency would not be a factor because of the positive changes his government ensured through beneficiary schemes such as the New Land Use Policy. "BJP or its friends cannot stop the Congress from doing what no party has done before — form the third straight government in Mizoram," he recently told party workers.

### 'Wary of a split'

The MNF, however, is wary of a split in the "non-Congress vote share" because of two new regional alliances. One is the Zoram People's Movement that three relatively old regional parties — Zoram Nationalist Party, Mizoram People's Conference and Zoram Exodus Movement — forged last year. The other is by Peoples' Representation for Identity and Status of Mizoram, which began as an RTI-based rights group a decade ago, Save Mizoram Front and Operation Mizoram.

## Swachh Bharat Mission a failure: Jairam

Congress leader says government is 'repeatedly lying' about the campaign's success

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Days after the Narendra Modi government celebrated the fourth anniversary of its Swachh Bharat Mission, former Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation Jairam Ramesh came out with a report card slamming the programme for failing to meet targets and the Centre for neglecting the real problem and "repeating lies" that the mission was a success.

"The Modi government's overriding desire to show a rapid pace of toilet construc-

tion has distracted from the objective of better health outcomes in a planned and sustainable manner," Mr. Ramesh said, flagging a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General that the toilets constructed under the mission could not be used because of lack of household water connection.

"The utter failure in providing cleanliness forced the World Bank to call implementation of the Swachh Bharat mission 'moderately unsatisfactory'. The bank subsequently withheld in-



Jairam Ramesh

stalment due towards the programme," Mr. Ramesh said.

Excessive focus on publicity and building toilets also meant the neglect of provi-

sions for clean drinking water, the former Congress Minister said, claiming that allocations for drinking water had been slashed since Mr. Modi took office.

### Manual scavenging

He also criticised the series of open defecation-free declarations by various state governments. Pinpointing the case of Gujarat, Mr. Ramesh said the declaration was nothing but "plain lies". "Since 2017, there has been one manual scavenging death every five days. This is

a human shame and criminal offence," he said.

In 2017, official records accounted for 13,000 workers engaged in manual scavenging. But in 2018, an inter-ministerial task force counted up to 53,236 people involved in manual scavenging.

"In its rush to show dramatic progress on Swachh Bharat Mission and to somehow malign the achievements of previous government, the Modi government is blatantly deceiving the people of India," Mr. Ramesh said.

Public resources used for meet: Cong

STAFF REPORTER  
KOLKATA

The Congress on Saturday alleged that the Election Commission (EC) had deferred its press conference on the schedule for Assembly elections in five States from 12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. to ensure that Prime Minister Narendra Modi could address an election rally in Rajasthan.

Speaking to journalists in Kolkata, Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala alleged the EC deferred the press conference to ensure that Mr. Modi and Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje could address an election rally in Rajasthan at 1 p.m.

### Under model code

Describing the EC's decision as "extremely intriguing", Mr. Surjewala said, "if the Election Commission had announced the date at 12.30 p.m. the Prime Minister and Chief Minister would not have been able to fructify their design of influencing the outcome of election and of mis-utilising public funds."



Randeep Singh Surjewala

He also pointed out that the model code of conduct comes into force immediately with the announcement of poll dates.

Mr. Surjewala further alleged that the BJP had used ₹200 crore of public money for the election rally.

"Government machinery is being utilised to organise the Prime Minister and Chief Minister's rally in Rajasthan," he said.

Referring to the Gujarat Assembly polls last year, Mr. Surjewala alleged that the EC had "yielded before the Modi government" in a similar manner. He urged the EC not to get "subverted" by the Prime Minister and BJP as it would jeopardise democracy.

## Rafale a good aircraft, says Air Marshal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHILLONG

Chief of the Eastern Air Command Air Marshal R. Nambiar said on Saturday that the Rafale fighter jets will be a game changer for the force.

"The Rafale is an excellent aircraft.... I had the opportunity to fly it in France two weeks ago. Let me assure you, this is a very good platform, highly capable and a game changer. Its presence in this area will give us a lot of deterrence," he told presspersons.



IN BRIEF



‘Tripura will go for NRC if it is successful in Assam’

NEW DELHI  
Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Saturday said that he will implement the National Register of Citizens in his State if the exercise is successful in Assam.  
“...everybody is waiting and watching what is happening in Assam, let it happen,” he said at the India Today Conclave East 2018. IANS

Amarinder for national policy on drug menace

NEW DELHI  
Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Saturday alleged that Pakistan was “pushing” drugs through Indian borders to destroy the youth in the northern States and called for a national policy to tackle the menace. Speaking at the HT Leadership Summit, Captain Singh also expressed concern over the erosion of the States’ powers. PTI

ED attaches ₹5.4 crore assets in bank fraud case

NEW DELHI  
The Enforcement Directorate said on Saturday that it has attached assets worth ₹5.4 crore in connection with its probe in an alleged ₹5,700-crore bank loan fraud case linked to a Gujarat-based pharmaceutical company. The attached assets belong to Delhi-based Gagan Dhawan, who was arrested by the ED and is out on bail. PTI

Mushaira on Gandhiji’s teachings

NEW DELHI  
The Ministry of Minority Affairs organised a *mushaira* (poetry recital) based on Mahatma Gandhi’s teachings and principles here on Saturday. The event was held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre. It witnessed eminent Urdu poets, including the likes of Wasim Bareilly, Haseeb Soz and Aizaz Popular Marethi, among others who spread messages of peace, humanity and unity through their poetic verses. PTI

# Uncertainty shadows the Rohingya of Kutupalong

Safe now in Bangladesh’s sprawling camps, refugees are haunted by the violence that forced them to flee and seek assurances before they return

KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE  
COX’S BAZAAR

Mohammed Nikaruzzaman, the sub-district officer in charge of Kutupalong, can never forget the sight that he witnessed on September 6, 2017. That rainy evening, while driving towards the hill that is known for elephants and other wild animals, he saw a sea of humanity standing quietly in the dark. This was the moment when the magnitude of the Rohingya refugee crisis became clear to him. Men and women of all ages, with many children and pregnant women, were emerging from the forest that divides Bangladesh from Myanmar.

“Thousands upon thousands of Rohingya had arrived on Cox’s Bazaar-Teknaf highway and they were sitting there in the dark as the rain hit them. It’s a difficult to forget that image,” said the

young officer, who has been at the forefront of Dhaka’s humongous effort to manage the biggest village of displaced international refugees anywhere in the world.

Dangerous journey

Within days it became apparent that the Myanmar military’s campaign that had initially pushed a trickle of Rohingya population from Myanmar to Bangladesh, had intensified its campaign and that the Rohingya community had to undertake the dangerous journey through the forest and hills to reach Bangladesh.

And with the refugees came tales of horror. Jomila, a 35-year-old mother of a teenager, said the Myanmar military had hacked her son and husband to death.

“It began with the arrival of the Myanmar military outside our villages. After that



Pushed out of home: Rohingyas at the Kutupalong refugee camp. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the military set up units outside every neighbourhood or village. They said it was to make us opt for the Population Verification Cards

(PVCs) but it was obvious that they wanted to control our daily activities. Then one night they attacked all villages,” said Mohammed Jafar,

narrating the climax of the crisis in the Rakhine province of Myanmar. Bangladesh acted swiftly. Government officials like Mr.

## India leaves out offset clause for S-400

Aim is to advance deliveries of the system, though Russia was ready to accede to the condition

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

The ₹40,300-crore deal between India and Russia for five S-400 air defence missile systems does not have any offset clause. India has decided to drop it so as to advance deliveries, though it was Russia that initially did not want offsets.

“They [Russia] agreed for offsets later, but we decided not to include them as it would drive up the cost and delay the delivery schedule,” a defence source said.

On schedule

As per the schedule, Russia will start deliveries after 24 months, which is 2020-end. Contract negotiations started after an inter-governmental agreement was concluded in October 2016. Speaking to a group of press-

### Smooth delivery

Without offset obligations, Russia will start deliveries of the Triumf air-defence system after 24 months, which is 2020-end

#### OFFSET CLAUSE

Under the defence procurement procedure, deals estimated at ₹2,000 crore and more have a 30% offset clause. This is meant to bring technologies to the country and build domestic defence manufacturing capabilities.

As a result, manufacturers add the cost of fulfilling the offset obligations to the deal.

Narendra Modi and Vladimir Putin in New Delhi on Friday. •AP

persons at Aero India 2017 in Bengaluru, Victor N. Kladov, director, international cooperation and regional policy,

Rostec State Corporation of Russia, said there was no offset component in the S-400 deal and this would be a

“strategic system” and “no offset package is the best choice” because it would cause delays.

Under the defence procurement procedure, deals worth ₹2,000 crore or more have a 30% offset clause. This is meant to bring technologies to the country and build domestic defence manufacturing capabilities. As a result, manufacturers add the cost of fulfilling the offset obligations to the deal.

Strict criteria

In an indication of the tough bargain India has to take up for a sanctions waiver under the Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), a spokesperson of the U.S. State Department said on Saturday that there were “strict criteria” for a waiver, and

urged all its allies and partners to “forgo transactions” with Russia.

“The waiver authority is not country-specific. There are strict criteria for considering a waiver. The waiver is narrow, intended to wean countries off Russian equipment and allow for things such as spare parts for the previously purchased equipment,” the spokesperson said, without any reference to India.

The spokesperson said a focus area for the implementation of the CAATSA would be “new or qualitative upgrades in capability,” including the S-400. The recent sanctions on a Chinese government entity for an S-400 delivery underscored the seriousness of the Donald Trump administration’s resolve.

## Pawar not in poll race: NCP leader

MLA says the party supremo himself has said that he is not contesting in 2019

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

NCP president Sharad Pawar will not contest the 2019 Lok Sabha election, party leader Jitendra Ahwad said here on Saturday.

Mr. Ahwad told presspersons that Mr. Pawar had made it clear in 2014 that he would not contest the Lok Sabha election again.

“Mr. Pawar has told the party not to consider his name as he will not be a can-



Sharad Pawar

didate. In today’s meeting, Mr. Pawar said he is not in the race and nobody should propose his name,” said Mr.

Ahwad, NCP MLA from Mumbra-Kalwa in Thane district.

He denied that the NCP chief had opposed the candidature of Parth Pawar, son of senior leader Ajit Pawar, for the Mawal Lok Sabha seat.

Discussions on

“Preliminary discussions are on. The name will be finalised after discussions with party workers,” he said.

The former Union Agri-

culture Minister is holding a two-day meeting with NCP leaders and functionaries at the party’s State unit office to discuss candidates for the election. The meeting started on Saturday morning.

Party sources said Mr. Pawar met party workers and leaders from Aurangabad, Raigad, Pune, Baramati, Shirur, Mawal, Nashik, Dindori, Dhule, Jalgaon, Raver, Parbhani, Beed, Kolhapur and Hatkanangle.

## ‘A young woman like no other’

Nadia Murad, co-winner of this year’s Nobel Peace Prize, embodies courage

GAYATRI RANGACHARI SHAH

When news came in that this year’s Nobel Peace Prize had been awarded to former ISIS captive Nadia Murad and Congolese physician Dr. Denis Mukwege, I realised just how powerful media can be. Dr. Mukwege and Ms. Murad were honoured by the Nobel Committee “for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict”.

TRIBUTE

I first met Murad in 2016 in New York, and subsequently in London and Davos. I couldn’t help but recall how far the world had come since the plight of the Yazidis first hit the headlines. Most people hadn’t heard of this tiny, pre-Islamic minority community of Iraqis living in the Sinjar mountains, until the ISIS came along to terrorise, kidnap and essentially annihilate them.

I first heard about the Yazidis at the Women In The World (WITW) summit in New York, the live journal-

ism platform founded by award-winning editor Tina Brown, to showcase stories of courageous women. In 2015, when Vian Dakhil, the sole female Yazidi member of Parliament from Iraq, and her sister Deelan, spoke on the WITW stage, they begged for the world to pay attention to the horror ISIS was unleashing in the region. By then, Nadia, then 19, had already been captured by the ISIS. Luckily, she managed to escape.

Ms. Brown recalls the first time she met Nadia. “She has a small voice, which seemed to rise in firmness as she told us her story, unflinchingly and with so much suppressed pain,” she says. “I was incredibly impressed with her courage, speaking about the atrocities she not only witnessed but experienced first-hand.”

‘Hunted’

In September 2016, I met Nadia at a small gathering at Ms. Brown’s home. She was like no other young woman I had ever met. She looked, in a word...hunted. And then –



Nadia Murad

she spoke. She described, via a translator, the horror she and many other victims had suffered. She told us she was from a farming family, and that life was peaceful before the ISIS came and kidnapped her, took her to Mosul and sold her. She was held for three months and experienced unspeakable acts. To be in that living room, up close, with a survivor of such abhorrent, ghastly abuse, was inexplicable. There wasn’t a dry eye in a room of journalists, activists and philanthropists. We had no way of comprehending how people could perpe-

trate such cruelty on one another.

In an interview with WITW, Nadia was asked why she was risking everything by speaking out about her ordeal as there was a threat to her life. She said: “I am continuing to do this because millions of women and girls have no rights. Daesh (ISIS) took my family, my future, my life. But what I have in my heart, and what I’ve always had, is justice. Despite everything they did, they couldn’t take away the knowledge I had that I was right and they were wrong.”

Subsequently, Amal Clooney took up Nadia’s case and that of Yazidi women at the International Criminal Court, which got the Yazidis more public attention. This year’s Nobel Peace Prize, Ms. Brown says, “Shows that the world IS watching and that we need to continue to fight to stop violence against women and to support all women like Nadia. Violence perpetrated against women is finally at the forefront.”

(The author is a Mumbai-based journalist)

### ADDITIONAL SKILL ACQUISITION PROGRAMME

A Joint Initiative of General & Higher Education Departments, Govt. of Kerala  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Trans Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14)

#### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

ASAP invites expression of interest from professional agencies to establish independent expert panel for review of operations maintenance and management of Community Skill Parks.

For details please visit [www.asapkerala.gov.in](http://www.asapkerala.gov.in)  
Last date of EOI submission: 05/11/2018, (5 pm)

(Sd/-)  
Chief Executive Officer

### AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

#### Notice for Expression of Interest

Selecting Agencies as “Innovative Waste Management Entrepreneur” by submitting a Proposal for Municipal Solid Waste Segregation / Processing / Disposal and Utilization for Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Ahmedabad.

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation invites Proposal for Expression of Interest (EOI) from the companies / agencies / firms who have expertise in the area of municipal solid waste management.

Proposal can be for any innovative idea in segregation / processing and disposal etc. components of municipal solid waste management. Interested Companies / agencies / firms may download the EOI documents from the AMC website [www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in](http://www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in) and submit EOI with relevant documents & Registration fee of Rs. 5000/- by registered A.D. Post / hand delivery / Speed Post / Courier only to Assistant Director (SWM), 2nd Floor, SWM Dept. Office, Kankaria Urban Centre, Kankaria, Ahmedabad - 380022 on / before Dt: 16.10.18 up to 2:00 PM. General information about the project can be viewed / downloaded from our website [www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in](http://www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in)

**Dy. Municipal Commissioner (SWM)**  
Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation

### DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES

Bangalore-560 001

No.CAH/VMS/FMD CP/Short Term TENDER/2018-19 Date: 05-10-2018

#### TENDER NOTIFICATION

(e-Procurement Mode Only)

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore hereby invites short term tenders through e-Procurement (Website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>) from eligible tenderers, for purchase of Foot And Mouth Vaccine, Syringes Needles and Other necessary Drugs (For Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme) Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services through e-Procurement for the year 2018-19 with a validity period upto 31-03-2019.

Interested eligible tenderers may obtain further information from the Deputy Director, Veterinary Medical Stores, Hebbal, Bangalore-560 024. Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting Website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 05-10-2018.

Tenderers can upload all the necessary documents accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit through e-procurement portal from 05-10-2018 to 20-10-2018 till 17.00 hours.

The Technical bid of tenders will be opened on 23-10-2018 at 11.30 A.M. onwards in the presence of tenderers or their authorized representative who choose to attend in the office of **The Commissioner, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Sir M. Vishveshwaraiah Mini Tower, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560 001.**

Sd/-  
**Director & Chairman**  
Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/DOU/R.O.No.1133/2018-19

Nikaruzzaman rolled out an immunisation programme for the ever-swelling number of the refugees. “We were concerned about outbreak of cholera and diphtheria and immediately carried out mass immunisation programmes,” he said.

The authorities opened 12 food distribution centres where the refugees would get prepared food. As Bangladesh sent out appeals for global help to save the fleeing Rohingya, many countries including Turkey, India, Australia and relief agencies like the UNHCR, Red Cross responded.

Preventing disease

With the help of friends, Bangladesh carried out the biggest anti-open defecation campaign and 52,000 toilets were built in the hilly areas of Kutupalong.

Apart from the toilets, an

vast settlement of tiny hutments came up on the red mud hills of Kutupalong. As a result of the massive relief and rehabilitation, there are 30 camps of Rohingya refugees spread over 6,000 acres for 1.2 million displaced people.

The Rohingya in Rakhine under attack from the Myanmar military had to flee with whatever they could salvage. The scar of that massacre will not go away anytime soon. But for now at least 1.2 million Rohingya refugees are staying in the sprawling refugee camps in the hills of Kutupalong.

They are far from home, but at least for now they are safe.

“We are safe now. But we will go back if Myanmar gives us assurance of giving back our rights and guarantees our security,” said Mohammed Jafar.

## Vora complains against Swamy in Herald case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Motilal Vora on Saturday told a Delhi court that BJP leader Subramanian Swamy was trying to influence the proceedings in the National Herald case by commenting on social media.

Additional chief metropolitan magistrate Samar Vishal was told by senior advocate R.S. Cheema, appearing for Mr. Vora, that Mr. Swamy was indulging in “character assassination” of the accused persons by tweeting.

“The complainant [Mr. Swamy] is also insulting the

lawyers appearing for the accused persons and is trying to influence the ongoing probe by commenting on the merits of the case,” the counsel said.

Mr. Vora, also represented by advocate Tarannum Cheema, requested the court to pass an injunction order restraining Mr. Swamy from tweeting about the case. The court has put up the matter for further hearing on October 20, when Mr. Swamy will respond to the application. He had earlier accused Mr. Vora of wasting the court’s time by filing frivolous applications in the case.

### ADDITIONAL SKILL ACQUISITION PROGRAMME

A Joint Initiative of General & Higher Education Departments, Govt. of Kerala  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Trans Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14)

#### Applications Invited

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for appointment to the post of “Procurement Officer” on contract basis for a period of one year. For more details, guidelines & submission of online application, visit [www.asapkerala.gov.in](http://www.asapkerala.gov.in) or [www.cmdkerala.net](http://www.cmdkerala.net). Printout or hard copy of the applications will not be accepted.

Start Date for Online Application Submission : 05.10.2018 (9.00 am)  
Last Date for Online Application Submission : 17.10.2018 (5.00 pm)

(Sd/-)  
Chief Executive Officer

सीएसआईआर-राष्ट्रीय अंतरविषयी विज्ञान तथा प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान CSIR-NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट डाक घर, पाप्पनकोड, तिरुवनन्थपुरम-695019 Industrial Estate PO, Pappanamcode, Thiruvananthapuram-19.					
विज्ञान सं./Advt. No.: PA/09/2018					
वाक-इन-इंटरव्यू / Walk-in-interview					
निम्नलिखित पूर्णतः अस्थायी पदों को भरने के लिए यह संस्थान पात्र उम्मीदवारों को वाक-इन-इंटरव्यू के लिए आमंत्रित करता है./This Institute invites eligible candidates for a Walk-in-interview for filling up the following purely temporary positions :					
क्रम सं. / Sl. No.	पद का नाम / Name of Post	सोच्यता / Qualification	वृत्तिका / Stipend	आयु सीमा / Max. Age Limit	वाक-इन-इंटरव्यू की तारीख / Date of Walk-in-interview
1	RA-I (One)	Ph.D in Physics. Desirable: Background in nanostructured materials, polymer nanocomposites and optical characterizations, expertise in photonic applications.	Rs.36,000/- + HRA	35 years	12.10.2018
2	RA-I (One)	Ph.D in Chemistry. Synthesis and photophysics of organic molecules is desirable.	Rs.36,000/- + HRA	35 years	
3	PA-II (One)	M.Sc in Inorganic chemistry / Materials Science with minimum 55% marks.	Rs.25,000/- + HRA	30 years	15.10.2018
4	PA-III (Two)	M.E/M.Tech in Mechanical / Materials / Metallurgical Engg. with minimum 55% mark.	Rs.28,000/- + HRA	35 years	16.10.2018
5	PA-II (One)	M.Sc in Biotechnology with minimum 55% marks.	Rs.25,000/- + HRA	30 years	17.10.2018
6	PA-III (One)	M.Tech in Nanoscience and Technology with minimum 55% marks. Proven research experience is desirable.	Rs.28,000/- + HRA	35 years	22.10.2018
7	PA-II (One)	B.Tech in Electronics with minimum 55% marks.	Rs.25,000/- + HRA	30 years	23.10.2018
8	PA-O (One)	VHSC with minimum 50% marks. (Experience in handling high temperature furnaces and related equipments is desirable).	Rs.10,000/- + HRA	28 years	24.10.2018
9	PA-II (One)	M.Sc in Microbiology / Biotechnology with minimum 55% marks.	Rs.25,000/- + HRA	30 years	
10	PA-II (One)	M.Sc in Biotechnology/ Microbiology / Biochemistry with minimum 55% marks. (for scale up of bacterial enzyme production process and basic molecular biology work)	Rs.25,000/- + HRA	30 years	25.10.2018
11	JRF (Project) (Two)	M.Sc. in Biotechnology / Microbiology with minimum 55% marks with NET / GATE / BET	Rs.25,000/- + HRA	30 years	
12	PA-O (One)	ITI-Electrical with minimum 50% marks. (Fermenter operation and maintenance of other lab instruments)	Rs.10,000/- + HRA	28 years	26.10.2018
13	PA-II (One)	M.Sc in Chemistry with minimum 55% marks.	Rs.25,000/- + HRA	30 years	
14	PA-II (One)	M.Sc in Chemistry / Applied Chemistry with minimum 55% marks.	Rs.25,000/- (Consolidated)	30 years	30.10.2018
For more details and application form, please visit our website <a href="http://www.niist.res.in">www.niist.res.in</a> प्रशासन निर्वहक / Controller of Administration					



WHO

Brett Kavanaugh, partisan pick

Brett Kavanaugh, U.S. President Donald Trump's second nominee to the Supreme Court in less than two years in office, has exacerbated the deep political divisions in the country.

The 53-year-old federal appeals court



ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

judge from Bethesda, Maryland in the suburbs of the American capital, has become the metaphor for the battle between conservatives and liberals soon after Mr. Trump announced his name on July 9.

What are the charges?

Three allegations of sexual misbehaviour against him that surfaced subsequently and his combative response to them raised further questions about his eligibility to become a Supreme Court judge. But the Republican Senate leadership, goaded by Mr. Trump, dismissed all challenges and rail-roaded the confirmation process.

Mr. Kavanaugh's nomination turned confrontational as at least three women came forward with accusations that the judge, during his school and university days, had a dubious record with women. Christine Blasey Ford alleged that Judge Kavanaugh and his friend Mark Judge pushed her into a bedroom at a party, when they were all teenagers,

and attempted to rape her. Judge Kavanaugh said he had "never done anything like what the accuser describes – to her or to anyone." A second woman, Deborah Ramirez, spoke of another indiscretion when they were students at Yale University. In the third episode, an attorney named Michael Avenatti publicised a sworn declaration from his client, Julie Swetnick, accusing Judge Kavanaugh of being present at a party when she was gang-raped. On September 27, Ms. Ford and Judge Kavanaugh testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

On October 1, Bloomberg reported that during his days at Yale, Judge Kavanaugh was involved in a drunken bar fight, which resulted in a call to the police. Subsequently, several former classmates of the judge came out to talk about his drinking habits and bouts of aggressive behaviour.

As the controversy raged, Mr. Trump mocked Ms. Ford at a public meeting even as he ordered a restricted investi-

gation by the FBI. The details of the FBI findings were not released, but Republican Senators found them satisfactory and moved ahead with his confirmation.

What happened at the hearing?

Judge Kavanaugh's testimony before the Senate committee turned out to be a partisan show: he accused Democratic Senators of being part of a conspiracy to take "revenge on behalf of the Clintons." Later on, he wrote a piece in *The Wall Street Journal* offering an explanation for his behaviour. "I was very emotional ...I know that my tone was sharp, and I said a few things I should not have said."

Why does it matter?

The current vacancy rose after Justice Anthony Kennedy announced his retirement at the age of 82. Justice Kennedy was considered a 'swing vote' in the nine-member court: his views had swung between the conservative and the liberal, depending on the questions

under examination. The Supreme Court judges are appointed for life, and typically they get more than three decades to serve. Four justices are leaning more towards conservative positions, while an equal number lean more towards liberal ones.

Multiple questions about the very fundamentals of the American political system, such as voting rights, immigration, reproductive rights and campaign financing, will come up for the consideration of the court in the coming years, as the country is witnessing intense debates on these issues. The ninth judge will sway the direction of the U.S. for decades to come. Mr. Trump has said he will pick relatively young, conservative judges who will remain in the court for longer. As Judge Kavanaugh goes on to occupy a seat at the highest court, it is more a demonstration of the efficiency of strident polarisation than painstaking consensus-building.

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

WHAT

The lowdown on Ayodhya appeals

**WHAT IS IT?** On September 27, in the Ayodhya title suit appeals, a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, in a majority opinion, decided against referring the question "whether offering prayers in a mosque is an essential part of Islam" to a seven-judge Constitution Bench. With this, the court has signalled that it will decide the appeals like any other civil suit, based on evidence, and pay little heed to arguments about the "religious significance" of the Ayodhya issue and the communal strife it has caused.

The Bench said the hearing would start from October 29, leading to the question whether the court would deliver a judgment before the May 2019 general election. The appeals are against the September 30, 2010, decision of the Allahabad High Court to divide the disputed 2.77 acre area among the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla. The court had relied on Hindu faith, belief and folklore. It concluded

that Lord Ram, son of King Dashrath, was born within the 1,482.5 square yards of the disputed Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid premises over 9,00,000 years ago during the Treta Yuga. One of the judges added that the "world knows" where Ram's birthplace is, while another said his finding was an "informed guess" based on "oral evidences of several Hindus and some Muslims" that the precise birthplace of Ram is under the central dome.

HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?

The final hearings began before a Bench of Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra (now retired) and Justices Ashok Bhushan and S. Abdul Nazeer on December 5 last year. The day also happened to be the eve of the 25th anniversary of the demolition of the 15th century Masjid by kar sevaks on December 6, 1992. However, the Muslim appellants pointed to certain paragraphs in a 1994 five-judge Constitution Bench



judgment in the Dr. Ismail Faruqui case. One of these paragraphs stated that "a mosque is not an essential part of the practice of the religion of Islam and *namaz* [prayer] by Muslims can be offered anywhere, even in open."

"So is the mosque not an essential part of Islam? Muslims cannot go to the garden and pray," their lawyer and senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan told the

court. He asked the Bench to freeze the hearing till this question is decided by a seven-judge Bench.

In their majority view, Chief Justice Misra and Justice Bhushan refused to send the question to a seven-judge Bench. Their opinion said the observations were made in the context of the Faruqui case, which was about public acquisition of places of religious worship. It should not be dragged into the Ayodhya appeals. The minority decision authored by Justice Nazeer dissented with the majority on the Bench, and said this observation about offering prayer in a mosque had influenced the Allahabad High Court. He questioned the haste of the court.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The answer to this question is found in the maiden Supreme Court hearing of the appeals last year. Those present distinctly remember senior advocate Kapil Sibal suggest that the

Bench post the hearings after July 15, 2019. Along with Mr. Sibal, senior advocate Dushyant Dave and Mr. Dhavan argued that the dispute is not just another civil suit. The case covers religion and faith and dates back to the era of King Vikramaditya. It is probably the most important case in the history of India, which would "decide the future of the polity." Mr. Sibal said the government was using the judiciary to realise its agenda for a Ram temple, a promise in the ruling BJP's 2014 election manifesto.

WHAT NEXT?

All eyes are on the new Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi. Justice Misra was also the lead judge on the Ayodhya Bench. Chief Justice Gogoi may lead the Ayodhya Bench himself or appoint another judge. With the Lok Sabha election nearing, a request to adjourn the case until after the poll may also be made.

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

WHY

is Facebook data breach serious?

What happened?

■ On September 16, Facebook noticed an unusual spike in the number of times the platform's 'View As' feature was being used. The feature allows users to see how their Facebook page will appear to another user. On September 25, Facebook announced that it had identified this as a malicious activity in which the access tokens of 50 million users were appropriated by unknown hackers, and certain personal details possibly accessed.

What is an access token?

■ An access token is a digital key that allows users to stay logged into Facebook on a device or browser without having to sign in repeatedly using their password. It extends its reach to other apps or services that users sign into using their Facebook account. If hackers have the access tokens, they do not require passwords to get into Facebook accounts or apps like Instagram that utilise the Facebook login.



What did hackers do?

■ The 'View As' feature was introduced by Facebook as a privacy control feature, allowing users to check the information they were sharing with others. But this proved to be an Achilles' heel because of some bugs that were introduced in the software in July 2017. According to Techcrunch, while using the 'View As' feature, Facebook's video uploader tool also appeared on the page at times, generating an access token that was not the user's but of the person the

user was looking up. For example, if Hacker A selected User B for 'View As', and the video uploader appeared on the page, it generated an access token for User B which was then available to Hacker A.

What was Facebook's response?

■ Facebook had to force the affected 50 million users, and an additional 40 million users who had used the 'View As' feature since last July to log in again so that their access tokens changed. Face-

book has since said it has resolved the bugs that caused what is said to be the largest breach in the history of the platform. Facebook is said to be working with the FBI on the issue. It also informed the Irish Data Protection Commission, since the European Union's strict new data protection law states that it has to be informed within 72 hours if anyone in the European Economic Area is affected. The Commission has started a probe, and Facebook faces a fine that could go over a billion dollars.

Why is it significant?

■ This breach again puts the spotlight on the vulnerabilities of Facebook, the digital behemoth that claims over two billion users and along with Google controls more than half of the global digital advertisement revenue. It was caught on the wrong foot earlier this year when the Cambridge Analytica scandal broke, revealing that data of up to 87 million users were harvested and used for polit-

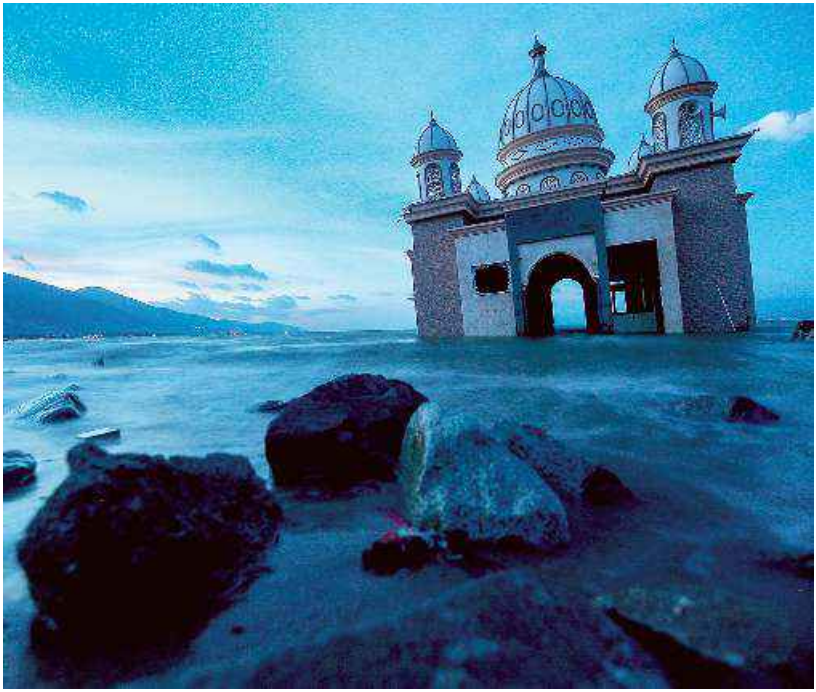
ical campaigning. There are ongoing investigations into that scandal, and the new breach is not helping Facebook redeem itself. Aside from the direct impact of private data being accessed, massive data sets allow for psychological profiling a la Cambridge Analytica. This could lead to targeted political advertising and manipulation, especially at a time when crucial mid-term elections are due in the United States and in India. It also undermines the faith in the 'single sign-in.' The Facebook sign-in has been utilised by a whole set of services, from gaming apps to news apps, as a way to log in to their sites or apps based on the idea that large digital entities like Facebook and Google provide better security. This trust now stands shaken. While Facebook has reportedly refreshed the access tokens of all affected parties, the extent to which the hackers had access to connected third-party apps remains unclear.

P.J. GEORGE

WHEN

5 October 2018

**Picking up the pieces:** The death toll from an earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia's Sulawesi island has crossed 1,500, the disaster mitigation agency said on Friday. Over 2,500 people were severely injured in the 7.5 magnitude quake, and the deadly tsunami waves it triggered, on September 28. The tsunami that ravaged the city of Palu was outsized compared to the earthquake that spawned it, but other factors – including a long, narrow bay – conspired to create monster waves, scientists told AFP. Authorities scrambled to get food, aid and equipment to Sulawesi. The Red Cross estimates that more than 1.6 million people have been affected, according to the BBC. The United Nations says almost 2,00,000 people are in urgent need of help. Damage assessment by the EU emergency mapping service, Copernicus, estimates that up to 3,000 buildings have been damaged. Pictures show the remains of a mosque at Palu, and an aerial view of the widespread destruction. ■ REUTERS



WHERE

Opening doors to women at Sabarimala



With a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court lifting the decades-old ban on women in the 10-50 age group from entering the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple, it is up to the Kerala government and the Travancore Devaswom Board to ensure that women who may choose to offer prayers at the temple during the coming pilgrim season are given protection. The season starts on November 18.

What did the court rule?

On September 28, Chief Justice Dipak Misra (now retired) and Justices A.M. Khanwilkar, Rohinton F. Nariman and D.Y. Chandrachud held that the ban on women in the temple was a smear on their dignity and the consequence of a hegemonic patriarchy. In her dissenting judgment, Justice Indu Malhotra took the position that the court could not impose its morality or rationality on the form of worship of a deity. Doing so, she felt, would negate the freedom to practise one's religion according to one's faith and beliefs.

What does the verdict imply?

The parties to the dispute are likely to seek a review of the verdict. A protest against the ruling is gathering momentum in the State. As things stand, there is no way of knowing how many women would turn up at the temple during the season. With the political colour that the issue has acquired, the State government is treading cautiously, hoping that



there would not be a sudden inflow of women devotees. The police will deploy 500 additional personnel at the temple.

The temple is situated atop a hill in the deep forests of the Periyar Tiger Reserve in the Western Ghats in Pathanamthitta district. Steeped in legend, this ancient forest shrine, situated 210 km from Kochi, draws pilgrims from different parts of the country. With the development of road transport and com-

munication facilities, Sabarimala has been witnessing a phenomenal increase in the number of pilgrims. The Travancore Devaswom Board, which administers the temple, estimates that around 5 crore devotees had visited the temple during the last pilgrim season. The season normally begins in mid-November and ends in January. The revenue from the temple last year was ₹255 crore.

What are the challenges?

The biggest challenge is to create sufficient infrastructure to meet a possible increase in the number of devotees, especially women. The mid-August floods brought down several structures at Pampa, where the uphill trek to the temple begins. Among these were a temporary shelter, which could house 5,000 pilgrims at a time, three multi-storey toilet blocks, bathing ghats and three bridges across the River Pampa. The pumphouse of the Kerala Water Authority still remains buried under a huge deposit of sand, and the waterlines

on the banks of the river are clogged with sand, badly affecting drinking water supply. The government and the Devaswom Board are racing against time to put the place back into some shape before the season begins.

What's the government doing?


The State government has entrusted the task of rebuilding the Pampa river bank to Tata Projects. The foot overbridge that facilitates pilgrims' passage to the trekking path and transport of goods to Sabarimala have been restored. The real challenge will be restoration of drinking water and sewage facilities and creation of sufficient temporary facilities for devotees, especially women, to stay before and after the trek to the temple. For decades, Sabarimala has almost exclusively hosted male devotees. With the Supreme Court extending the right of worship to women, the immediate challenge is to make it gender-friendly.

RADHAKRISHNAN KUTTOOR



# Happy squirrel days in a London October

We are stocking up for winter, pulling out woollens, keeping one eye on the football while stirring the first thick soup of the season



**PASSING BITE**

**RUCHIR JOSHI**

is a writer, filmmaker and columnist

Normally, I'm not a big fan of the autumn in England. Most years the summer that's just ended leaves me with a feeling of having been shortchanged, of not enough properly warm days, of too much rain, and the fall weather that arrives feels like a debt-collector come to demand interest on a loan that you've used up without any pleasure or profit. Not this time, though. This year, the first days with a proper autumn bite provided extremely welcome relief from relentless heat. Even the first cold rain, normally about as welcome as a bout of flu, seemed to be a harbinger of some normalcy - maybe the glaciers were pausing in their melting, maybe the planet was righting itself after teetering on the brink. Of course, this was a fantasy - we now know that the ice caps, northern and southern, will melt in a race

with each other, and various bits of continents will then behave with erratic incontinence, popping up or pushing down in ways that are completely unpredictable. But the morning weather in this London October helps you to stave off those dark, pessimistic thoughts. The air is what the French call 'frais', meaning fresh but also crisp and cold, something that opens up the atmosphere and provides a break from the sultry bubbledome of the hot season.

**Leaf and belief**

The trees start turning colour, some types always go first, already changing by mid-September, while others will hold on to their leaf and beliefs well into November. At the end of a neighbour's garden, one tall tree - perhaps an elm, I'm not sure - is doing something strange. Strangled by the ivy on its trunk, it was late in flowering this year, and when the flowers did come they sprouted from only one half of the fan of branches. In another garden someone had lopped off a pine midway in a straight line, so it looks like a weird kind of mutation with an undulating platform of branches, sort of like one of



those Premier League footballers' haircuts.

Talking about football, come October the fever of cricket recedes to other parts of the world and you can see it for the weird game it is: the Indians get back to doing their business on docile pitches; England travel to Sri Lanka, hopefully for a fearful drubbing from our southern brothers; this island's Test venues are bedded down for the winter; and a proper game like football, short sharp and brutal, comes into focus. You know summer is really over when you

see the small gangs of people huddled on the pavement outside pub windows, clutching their beer glasses, rain dripping from their cigarettes, staring at the TV inside, watching their team get a beating or managing to mug some other team of sub-millionaires. After a clanking, rusty start, I'm happy to report that Arsenal, a proper supporter of which I'm not allowed to call myself by close relatives, is doing reasonably, unspectacularly well: 'we' (or 'they' as I must call them in presence of family) have now won eight games in a row (in all

competitions) and are chugging along in the slipstream of the five leading clubs above them. Hopefully there will be no November dive, and who knows, come end-season next spring, a sudden, possibly ridiculously undeserved burst that takes them near the top and leaves their North London rivals Tottenham Hotspur below them and their supporters seething with rage.

**Time for the 'Full English'**

The best thing about the onset of the cold weather is that different food comes to the fore. Gone are the salads and cold meals of the hot season. Those heavy breakfasts you've been avoiding since May now make sense again and it's possible to justify some variation of the infamous 'Full English': eggs of your choice, bacon, sausages, grilled tomatoes and mushrooms, hash browns, black pudding (for those who don't know, these are delicious biscuits made from pork blood, beef suet and oats or barley), and if you're really feeling glutinous this line-up can be followed by the appended 'American' of pancakes and maple syrup; coffee, of course (or tea if you must), and juice of some sort; all extremely unhealthy and satisfying.

The lunch and dinner meals also now take on a different character with the markets filling up with the most colourful varieties of squashes and pumpkins, knobbly, ringed with veinous ropes or smooth and shiny. Onions also come into their own, garlic changes from its winger role in the summer dishes to become part of the central strike prong, recipes for meat, chicken and vegetable stocks, left dormant in the hot days, are now awakened to add to the soups, stews and gravies for the roasts.

After a record-breaking hot summer, chances are this will be a long and cruel winter. Through this time the world will likely continue to go to hell in a hand-basket, megalomaniacs will certainly continue to inflict violations on our peace and sanity, the planet's ecological breakdown will continue unabated. But, in a way that we who live in tropical climates have no habit of doing, the people in the cold places are going into what I call 'happy squirrel' mode, stocking up for winter, starting up their huge AGA ovens that both cook the food and heat the houses, pulling out their woollens, keeping one eye on the football while stirring the first thick soup of the season.

# The politics of populism

Or, why the Sensex doesn't indicate voting patterns

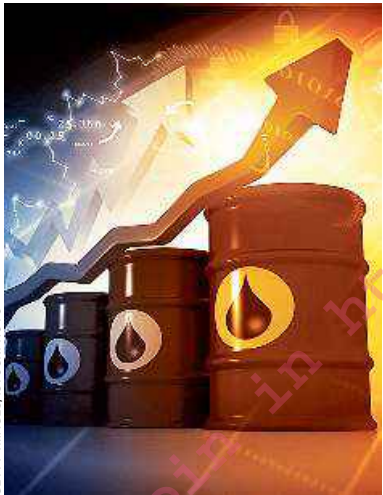


**ON THE OTHER HAND**

**RAGHAVAN SRINIVASAN**

is Editor, The Hindu BusinessLine

I must confess to feeling a little sorry for Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. The poor man had barely returned after a grievous illness when he was hit with the double whammy of a plunging rupee and soaring fuel prices. There was little he could do about the former, except perhaps curtail the endless demand for dollars by trying to do some demand-side management by imposing some trade curbs and hiking the odd tariff, which he duly did.



in. State taxes on petrol vary from a low of 16.66% in Goa to a high of over 39% in Maharashtra, with most States veering towards the higher end of the spectrum. In fact, fuel taxes account for a fifth of all revenues for all States put together.

But the situation reversed with oil prices surging. As petrol prices raced towards (and in some places, beyond) the ₹90 per litre mark, causing anger and dismay amongst the voting public, the only thing Jaitley, as Finance Minister of a government rapidly nearing another election, could do was to cut taxes on petroleum products, which he duly did by ₹1.50 per litre, while asking government-owned oil marketing companies to absorb a further Re.1 per litre from their margins.

And what happened? There was a virtual bloodbath in the stock markets. Jaitley started speaking around 3.10 p.m. on October 4. By 3.15 p.m., prices of these oil PSUs started plunging. By 3.30 p.m., some had fallen over 20%. Fears of the Centre's fiscal position worsening as result of the duty cuts further triggered a further generalised sell-off in the markets. In just two sessions on October 4 and 5, the Sensex plunged 1,600 points. In the week, which had only four trading days, the bellwether index lost 1,851 points - the biggest absolute one-week fall in its history!

Poor Jaitley! Damned if he had done

nothing on rising fuel prices, and damned because he did! With the RBI adding fuel to the fire by not hiking rates and adding, for good measure, that it did not have a 'target' for the rupee's level against the dollar, the bear hug on the markets - currency as well as equities - is only going to tighten in the coming weeks.

Why then, did the FM do what he did, particularly with elections looming? That's because both he and the Prime Minister, who masterminds all this, are very good politicians. And politicians know something which economists often don't - that when it comes to elections, populism pays.

**The populist line**

A recent survey by global research firm Ipsos - Beyond Populism? - bears this out. In the India cut of the survey (it was done in 24 countries), it found that 58% of Indians felt that the economy was rigged to favour the rich and powerful and an equal number felt that traditional political parties and politicians didn't care about 'people like me'.


Now this is exactly what the Congress and Rahul Gandhi have been saying all along (remember the 'suit boot ki sarkar' dig?), so they should be all set for 2019, right? Wrong. More than two-thirds of the respondents - the second highest in the 24 countries - also felt the need for a "strong leader willing to break the rules", one who can speak his mind "regardless of consequences".

And no one can project this better than Narendra Modi. So, counter-intuitive as it may seem, breaking the 'rules' - of fiscal prudence, trying to keep the currency 'strong' and so on - at a time of great economic hardship for the common man may actually turn out to be a productive poll play. While the media and analysts may point to the ₹3.3 lakh crore of investor wealth eroded on just one day (October 4), but Modi can turn around and say, "But I saved you ₹5 on every litre, so what if the rich lost some money?"

Bad economics, it turns out, does make for good politics.

# How to review, and why

Some debates on book reviewing will never be settled



**WORD COUNTS**

**MINI KAPOOR**

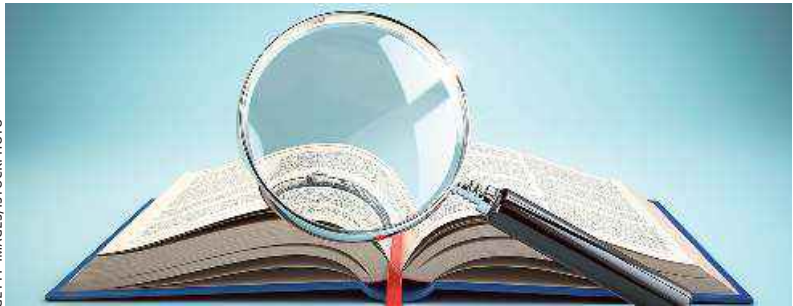
is Ideas Editor, The Hindu

In the introduction to her collection of essays, literary criticism and commentary, *See What Can Be Done*, the American novelist and short story writer Lorrie Moore recounts the horror of once meeting somebody who told her that there was "a well-known list of six things a book review must always do". The person who told her this did not reveal what the six things were, and Moore presumably remains much the better for being in ignorance.

**Three collections**

But the question, what should a book review do (if not always, but often enough), hangs in the air after reading three recent collections of literary criticism - along with Moore's, *The Collected Essays of Elizabeth Hardwick* and Francine Prose's *What to Read and Why*. There is no better place to start the discussion than with Hardwick, one of the founders of the *The New York Review of Books* in the early 1960s who passed away in 2007, and her famous takedown in 1959 of the (mostly American) culture of book reviewing at the time, "The Decline of Book Reviewing". Almost six decades later, it still compels readers to reconsider what they seek from reviews, and also to become aware of the changing dynamics of book discovery.

Hardwick was withering in her verdict on popular book reviewing, with an eye focussed especially on *The New York Times Book Review*: "A genius may indeed go to his grave unread, but will hardly have gone to it unpraised. Sweet, bland commendations fall everywhere upon the scene... A book is born into a puddle of treacle; the brine of hostile criticism is only a memory. Everyone is found to have 'filled a need,' and is to be 'thanked' for so-



mething and to be excused 'minor faults in an otherwise excellent work.'" The inclination, she wrote, appeared to privilege "coverage" over "the drama of opinion". One result of this was a sort of "democratic euphoria" that gave equivalence to lighter writing and more serious books. To convey just how dismal the effect of this critical flattening was, she wrote that the publishers of Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* actually quoted bad reviews to get readers interested.

She had the data to back up exactly how rare these "bad reviews" could be. Of all reviews summarised in 1956 in the *Book Review Digest*, 51% were favourable, 44.8% were "non-committal", and just 4.7% unfavourable.

It's difficult to think that the situation now is much different anywhere in the world, but Prose, whose book is a follow-up to her magisterial *Reading Like a Writer*, says reviewers must be emphatic when they write a favourable review: "You've got to read this" should be the first line of every positive book review."

*What to Read and Why* is made up in great part with Prose's introductions to reissued classics but also includes her "positive" review of Mohsin Hamid's most recent novel, *Exit West*. Her purpose, she says, is to convey "the reasons why we continue to read great books, and why we continue to care."

Prose's is an eclectic collection, and you'd hardly expect to be surprised with a negative take in an introduction to a classic. But some years ago, in 2012, the American critic, Laura Miller, made, to quote the title of her essay in *Salon*, "the case case for positive book

reviews". Among others she referenced Hardwick for the criticism that reviews were too soft, but she argued that book reviewing could no longer assume that there still exists a critical mass of readers who would have read, or will read, enough of the books in question - there was "no slice of culture in common" among readers as there was among, say, TV viewers. "Even the novelists you may think of as 'hyped' are in fact relatively obscure," she wrote. "As for those people who have heard of today's best-known literary novelists, the vast majority haven't read their books. This won't, by the way, stop them from expressing an opinion on those books because they have, after all, read the reviews (and the author profiles and interviews)."


What use, Miller suggested in a powerful comment on the Internet age of multimedia, would it be to readers to be swamped by harsh critiques of books they were not likely to have considered reading in any case? It'd be better to bring to their attention, in an informed and honest way, books that are praiseworthy and thus recommended reading.

**Practitioner's take**

The debate will, of course, go on. But Moore adds another angle to it: "A fiction writer reviewing is performing - I still believe - an essential task. Very few practising artists review the work of their fellow sculptors of painters or dancers or composers, and so the conversation is left to nonpractitioners." She calls it "jury duty", and says her style of criticism is a "practitioner's take". And of such writing, it can be agreed, there is not quite enough.

# Sea battles on land

For listeners of music, analytical perspectives are one way to assert our association to a song over a fellow listener



**SERENDIPITIES**

**KEERTHIK SASIDHARAN**

is a writer and lives in New York

In a podcast released last year, the Canadian writer, Malcolm Gladwell, explored the history of the legendary pop song called 'Hallelujah' which was written and composed by the great Canadian singer-writer Leonard Cohen. Gladwell tracked the song's improbable journey - from an obscure melancholic ballad to an all purpose secular prayer for the West ("your faith was strong, but you needed proof"). The song, which was written after many drafts, met with little success early on. Even Cohen's record producer found the song trite. Another described the song's undergraduate gloom as "so hyperserious that it's almost satire". Perhaps that isn't entirely untrue. Nevertheless, the song has the marks of Leonard Cohen's self-referential weariness. A temperament

that sees the world for what it is, without bitterness.

**Lifted out of the abyss**

After 'Hallelujah' was released, it sank into the unfathomable abyss of 1980s pop music. Then, through an elaborate contrivance of fate, a young singer called Jeff Buckley ended up singing it. His aspirated voice sang slowly, more deliberately. His voice ached with the angst of a penitent who has lost his religion.

A few years later however, tragically, Buckley died in a swimming accident. He was 31 years old. Thanks to our fondness (at least since the poet Arthur Rimbaud) for artists with a sprinkling of genius who die young, Buckley's version of 'Hallelujah' broke into popular consciousness with the force of a mid-life romance. By 2014, the Library of Congress's National Recording Registry added the song into its archives to commemorate the cultural life of the United States.

At the heart of Gladwell's narrative about this song's history was his thesis that there are two kinds of genius. Some acts of creative genius don't burst into



the open as singular, finished products - say, like Picasso's works or Shakespeare's tragedies. But rather, these works of art are often half-born, nearly asphyxiated by the umbilical cord that is still attached to the frenzies of its creator's imagination. To fill this newborn with a life-giving force requires the continual work by many, the repeated cleansing and scrubbing by different minds, so that the underlying art even-

tually froths outwards, like butter from the milk of everyday living. Listening to Gladwell, I found myself nodding. It all made sense.

Then suddenly, I realised, his narrative didn't tell me much about why the song stirred so many, or even me, when I had first heard it. Perhaps that was never his intention. What he did provide was a critic's view of the melody, the history of a song. For many listeners

of music - which is most of us - such analytical perspectives are one way to assert our association, or even devotion, to a song over a fellow listener. During the Margazhi festival, the sight of connoisseurs competing to identify ragas faster than the other has often made me wonder what is it they race to arrive at.

It was while thinking about all this that I stumbled upon an essay by the German author Hermann Hesse. In the early part of the 20th century, Hesse was among the most widely sought after German writers - despite being reviled by the establishment for failing to write "engaged" literature. As a magnificent new biography of Hesse by Gunnar Decker tells us, by the 1960s he was largely forgotten. It was the hippies of the late 1960s who brought Hesse back to life, nearly 20 years after his death, thanks to his novels like *Siddhartha* or *The Glass Bead Game*. In this particular essay, he writes to a reader who asked him about how to interpret Kafka's novels: "This business of 'interpretation' is an intellectual game, a pretty enough game, suitable for people who are smart but who are strangers to art, who can

read and write books about Negro sculpture or the twelve-tone scale but never find their way to the inside of a work of art because they stand at the gate fiddling at it with a hundred keys and never notice that the gate, in fact, is open."

**Like Hesse's 'smart men'**

For much of our life we conduct ourselves like Hesse's "smart" men - rarely looking up at the open gates ahead. This is all the more so in a society that scrambles to lift itself out of poverty. The appearance of thought is often more important than thought itself. Our music, literature, conversations, and even our sense of self - all are mediated by thought, arguments, and disputations. It is little surprise that our societies are progressively more cruel to each other. Our schools and colleges provide young minds a set of vocabularies to situate themselves in society but rarely the abilities to think through the histories of the very same vocabulary. We wage battles in the name of thought, when the conflict often lies in how we feel. We've become experts in waging "sea battles on land".





**Tooth tales**  
That true kangaroos diversified due to aridity that set in during the Miocene epoch is contradicted by a recent study published in *Science*. Size and usage of kangaroo teeth revealed that they diversified with spread of the grasslands during the mid-Pliocene epoch only.



**Last verses**  
Cassini spacecraft orbited Saturn for 13 years before it went on a Grand Finale orbit to be destroyed. Six research papers in *Science* describe the spacecraft's findings during its last journey, which include evidence of a complex, dynamo process inside the planet and the composition of its atmosphere.



**CRISPR targets DMD**  
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy results in progressive muscular weakness leading to shortened lifespans. This is due to mutations that reduce expression of dystrophin, an essential structural protein in heart and skeletal muscles. A recent study showed how CRISPR gene editing could remedy this in dogs.



**Life's critical balance**  
Arizona State University researchers studying properties of complex biological systems using computational methods found a response to questions of why life exists, diversifies and fills the earth. They found that the keystone is life's ability to find the middle path between robustness and adaptability.



**Mirroring injuries**  
The AmericanTufts University biologists amputated limbs of frogs and found that the uninjured legs exhibited bioelectric states mirroring the location and type of injury on the other legs. From the study, it seems that this long-distance communication may be due to a cell-to-cell process - an evolutionary precursor to neurological signalling.

## ODD & END

**Homing snakes**  
University of Kent researchers have seen what appears like a homing instinct in snakes. In a study, the researchers tracked adders (*Vipera berus*) that were moved from a development site in order to protect them. Radio tags were attached on some of the snakes to keep track. The movement of the translocated snakes were compared with that of resident snakes. The researchers found that the males among the translocated snakes exhibited more movement than the resident ones. To their surprise they found that one male snake actually managed to move back to the original location. This was despite the fact that it had to cross a distance of over half a kilometre and also involved crossing unsuitable short grassland habitat which would expose it to predators.

# JNCASR restores memory in mice with Alzheimer's

A small molecule attached to carbon nanospheres could cross the blood-brain barrier

R. PRASAD

Using a small molecule that activates two enzymes (CBP/p300 histone acetyltransferases), researchers from India and France have been able to completely recover long-term memory in mice with Alzheimer's disease. Neuron-to-neuron connections that form the network were re-established leading to memory recovery in the diseased mice. The therapeutic molecule used in the study was synthesised by a team led by Tapas Kundu from the Molecular Biology and Genetics Unit at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru.

The small molecule was found to activate the two enzymes, and the two enzymes by virtue of being the master regulators activate several genes that are important for memory. In a June 2013 paper in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, Prof. Kundu's team had demonstrated the small molecule's ability to generate new neurons and induce long-term memory in normal mice.

**Memory in mice**  
"If it is able to induce memory in normal mice, we wondered if it can induce and recover lost memory in mice with Alzheimer's," recalls Prof. Kundu. "We found the molecule activating the two enzymes in the diseased mice and producing new neurons. Also, 81 genes whose expression was repressed in mice with Alzheimer's were activated to normal levels." Besides completely recovering lost memory, other symptoms of Alzheimer's such as balance problem was also addressed.

The amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles contribute to the degradation of the neurons leading to memory loss in Alzheimer's. "The plaques and tangles absorb these two enzymes. So once the enzymes are activated by the small molecule, the whole process of neurodegeneration gets reversed," he says.

Most clinical studies of Alzheimer's have failed as cognitive dysfunction associated with the disease emerges quite late when the brain is affected by the deposition of plaques and tangles, and cell death. The possibility of reversing the damage through production of new neurons and connection between neurons therefore offers promise. "There is a possibility that the small molecule may at least be able to delay the cognitive decline and improve the conditions of patients," he says.

"We didn't see the plaques and tangles progressing and growing. Don't think they get destroyed. We need to carry out more studies to confirm the fate of plaques and tangles," he says.



We found the molecule activating two enzymes in the diseased mice and producing new neurons, says Tapas Kundu.

Since the small molecule cannot cross the blood-brain barrier and enter the brain, the researchers turned to carbon nanospheres synthesised by a team led by Prof. Muthusamy Eswaramoorthy, Chemistry and Physics of Materials Unit at JNCASR and coauthor of the latest paper published in the journal *EMBO Molecular Medicine*. The carbon nanospheres, about 400 nanometres in size, are synthesised using glucose, and the small molecule is attached to the surface of the nanosphere.

"As reported in a 2008 paper in the journal *Nano Letters*, glucose easily crosses the blood-brain barrier. So it acts as a vehicle to ferry the molecule into the brain. Since the nanospheres retain some glucose property they are able to ferry the molecule and reach the brain in about 48 hours," says Prof. Eswaramoorthy.

"We were able to see high concentration of the molecules in the brain in 48-72 hours after administering," says Prof. Kundu, who is currently the director of Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow.

The nanospheres were not seen after 21 days, probably because the glucose was consumed by the brain.

The study tested the ability of the small molecule in recovering memory at an early stage of disease onset. "Currently, we are studying mice with Alzheimer's disease that are one year old. And the initial results are promising," he says.

Synthesis of the small molecule and carbon nanospheres and testing them on normal mice were carried out in JNCASR, while testing them on diseased mice model was done in France.

Prof. Kundu is looking at the prospect of founding a start-up company to carry out toxicity studies.

**Blood-brain barrier**  
Since the small molecule cannot cross the blood-brain barrier and enter the brain, the researchers turned to carbon nanospheres synthesised by a team led by Prof. Muthusamy Eswaramoorthy, Chemistry and Physics of Materials Unit at JNCASR and coauthor of the latest paper published in the journal *EMBO Molecular Medicine*.

## DNA tool to assess disease risk from genome analysis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Scientists say they have developed a new DNA tool that uses machine learning to accurately predict people's height and assess their risk for serious illnesses such as heart disease and cancer.

The tool, or algorithm, builds predictors for human traits such as height, bone density and even the level of education a person might achieve, purely based on one's genome, according to the research published in the journal *Genetics*.

"While we have validated this tool for these three outcomes, we can now apply this method to predict other complex traits related to health risks such as heart disease, diabetes and breast cancer," said Stephen Hsu from Michigan State University (MSU) in the U.S.

Further applications have the potential to dramatically advance the practice of precision health, which allows physicians to intervene as early as possible, researchers said.

The research analysed the complete genetic makeup of nearly 500,000 adults in the U.K. using machine learning.

The computer accurately predicted everyone's height within roughly an inch.

While bone density and educational attainment predictors were not as precise, they were accurate enough to identify outlying individuals who were at risk of having very low bone density associated with osteoporosis or were at risk of struggling in school.

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# Common ant pollinates rare wild jamun

This is interesting as ants are usually depicted as poor pollinators

AATHIRA PERINCHERY

Bees might be the most well-known pollinators, but researchers have found that common white-footed ants are the best pollinators of a rare evergreen tree in the southern Western Ghats.

*Syzygium occidentale* is a small, wild jamun tree that grows mostly along the banks of the River Periyar in Kerala. It is categorised as 'vulnerable' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The survival of such a species is crucial, depending on the fruits it produces, which is only possible if pollinators fertilize its flowers first.

To find out which animals - birds, bats, wasps or bees - are its most important pollinators, researchers from institutes including Kerala's Central University studied the flowering patterns and timings of around 50 trees that grow along the River Periyar. Visiting the trees daily for three separate flowering seasons between 2010 and 2015, the team quantified the timing of flowering, the volume of nectar available in flowers, the animals that visit the flowers and the frequency of their visits.

They found that 10 species - including sunbirds and cockroaches - visited the large, pleasant-smelling white flowers that bloomed



White-footed ants in a *Syzygium occidentale* flower along the Periyar river in Kerala. • GIBBY KURIAKOSE

Central University studied the flowering patterns and timings of around 50 trees that grow along the River Periyar. Visiting the trees daily for three separate flowering seasons between 2010 and 2015, the team quantified the timing of flowering, the volume of nectar available in flowers, the animals that visit the flowers and the frequency of their visits.

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between December and April. Among these, seven species (including bees and two ant species) frequented the flowers the most.

The team then conducted experiments to determine which species was the most effective pollinator. They permitted only one type of pollinator (white-footed ants, weaver ants, night-flying insects, birds or day-flying insects such as bees) to visit freshly bloomed flowers for around two days by using combinations of net bags and glue to keep out other animals during this time. They also tested for the efficacy of wind pollination by using mosquito nets to eliminate all pollinators from visiting the flowers.

After each experiment, the researchers dissected the fruit to confirm the presence of healthy, embryo-carrying seeds: proof that a particular animal group had successfully pollinated the flower. Their results, published in *Arthropod-Plant Interactions*, shows that ants - especially white-footed ants, the most frequent visitors to the flowers day and night - were the most efficient pollinators of the tree.

This is an interesting finding because ants are usually depicted as poor pollinators. Unlike the white-footed ants, many flower-visiting ant species (such as the weaver ants in this study) attack other pollinators and thus prevent them from pollinating the plant, said co-authors P. A. Sinu from the Central University of Kerala and K.R. Shivanna (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment).

# Eastern Ghats face loss of forest cover, endemic plants

Forest cover shrunk from 43.4% to 27.5% in 95 years

ASWATHI PACHA

The Eastern Ghats spread across Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, has lost almost 16% of its forest area over a span of 100 years, a recently published study shows.

Researchers from the University of Hyderabad studied historical maps and satellite images from 1920 to 2015 to understand the changes in land use and land cover. The forest cover, which was 43.4% of the total geographical area in 1920, has reduced drastically to 27.5% in 2015. Over the years, about 8% of forest area was converted into agricultural fields, while about 4% converted into scrub or grassland.

They also found that the number of patches of land had increased indicating fragmentation. In 1920 there were about 1,379 patches which kept steadily increasing over the years reaching a whopping number of 9,457 in 2015.

**Threat to species**  
Previous studies have shown that the Eastern Ghats is home to more than 2,600 plant species and this habitat fragmentation and destruction can pose a serious threat to the endemic plants.

"We have sampling points across the four States where we regularly monitor the plants. When we carried out forest map overlay informatics analysis, we found fragmentation in areas where there are several rare, endangered, threatened and endemic species. Best suitable habitats for the plant species have decreased in the Eastern Ghats," says Reshma M. Ramachandran, Ph.D. scholar at the Centre for Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Hyderabad and first author of the paper published in *Ecological Indicators*.

Habitat reduction mainly occurred in the districts of Gajapati (Odisha), Mahbubnagar (Telangana), and also in Nallamalai and Kolli hill ranges.

While agriculture was the main reason for deforestation during the early years, post 1975, mining and other developmental activities such as the construction of dams, roads were the culprits. In 1920, the mining area was only 622 sq.km, and in 2015 it had increased to 962 sq.km.

"The Eastern Ghats are often ignored. Even stakeholders are interested only in the Western Ghats and Himalayan studies. But they need to understand that the Eastern Ghats are also ecologically important. They play an important role in the monsoon break of both North-East and South-West Monsoon," says Dr. Parth Sarathi Roy from Centre for Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Hyderabad. "There are also many tribal communities in this region and the government needs to shift its focus and fund more studies and monitoring programmes in this region."



Previous studies have shown that the Eastern Ghats is home to more than 2,600 plant species.

# Neurodegeneration to neuroregeneration: Exercise helps!

Can exercise itself be replaced and substituted with biochemical treatment, thereby supplying patients with 'bottled exercise'?



## SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Over the last 30 years, the longevity of Indians, on average, has shot up remarkably. It was 41 years in the year 1960 and has risen to 68 years of age in 2015. While people live longer, age-related problems - both physical and mental - have become important issues to worry about and find solutions to. Progressive loss of memory and reduction in cognitive ability, together clubbed as dementia, has risen. It has been estimated that 4 million Indians suffer from some form of dementia. While Alzheimer's disease is one such neural disorder (1.6 millions of the 4 million), there are other disorders contributing to dementia too.

As we grow older, our brains change. The neural cells in the hippocampus, the part associated with learning, acquiring and maintaining memory, are damaged. If one were to find means of protecting this part of the brain and find ways to regenerate these neural cells, it should be possible to overcome and win over this problem and regain cognitive normalcy.

What are the factors leading to dementia? Some studies across the world had suggested that a 'risk gene' called APOE4, and another one termed presenilin might play some role here. But the frequency of APOE4 (and presenilin) is too low to be of major consequence (data from Dr. G. Chandak from CCMB Hyderabad and Dr. Mathuranath from Thiruvananthapuram), though there appears to be a regional variation across India (data from Dr. P.P. Singh of Punjabi University, Patiala).

A more important finding, and likely causative factor, comes from the imaging of the brain; this has found the hippocampus and some other parts of the brain to be tangled a bit, with some insoluble sheet-like 'plaques' which interfere with signal transmission in the brain. (Such a thing was first detected in what was called as the 'mad cow' disease detected in cows in U.K. which were fed meat products to eat). Yet others have suggested the role of a protein called brain-derived neurotrophic factor or BDNF; when its level falls below optimum, dementia results.

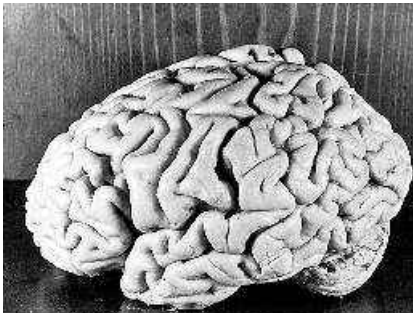
Several methods have been tried to address the dementia problem. Attempts using vaccine candidates have not been successful, not attempts to use immune-therapy. Remarkably, sustained physical exercise seems to help - a remarkable connection between the physical and the mental. Exercise has long been thought of to stimulate neurogenesis, namely the generation of new nerve cells, just as it does muscular and cardiac cells.

Towards this, a group led by Dr. Rudolph E. Tanzi at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, USA has published a note in the September 7, 2018 issue of the journal *Science*, using a mouse afflicted with Alzheimer's disease as the model.

### How exercise helps

This group based its argument on the fact that the hippocampus in the brain contains neuro-progenitor cells which continue to generate new neurons. This well-known process is called Adult Hippocampal Neurogenesis or AHN. In Alzheimer's and other dementias, this process of making new neurons, namely, AHN, is impaired. The group argued whether AHN can be increased in the Alzheimer mouse by pushing the rodent to exercise on a running wheel for 3 hours every day for several days. (Why exercise? The reason behind this has been the claim that exercise is helpful for the body and the brain). They found several positive effects. (1) AHN was increased; more nerve cells were seen to be made; (2) the 'plaques' in the brain of the animal were reduced; (3) the levels of the molecule BDNF went up and (4) there was some improvement in memory. Thus, exercise in the demented mouse reduces pathology, increases neurons in the hippocampus and improves memory.

**'Bottling exercise with chemicals'?**  
The next question was: if exercise increases AHN through a rise in the BDNF levels



The paper gives a clue as to why exercise is good for the brain. • THE HINDU

and reduces pathology, why not replace exercise itself, and substitute it instead with biochemical treatment? To this end, they used methods to increase the levels of BDNF by injecting a drug molecule called AICAR (5-amino imidazole-4-carboxamide riboside), and another molecule called P7C3, which helps in the survival of new neurons. As Dr. Tara Spire-Jones and Dr. Craig Ritchie comment on the Harvard work in the same issue of *Science*, this paper provides clues about why exercise is good for memory. (They also add tongue-in-cheek that we could perhaps 'bottle' the effects of exercise through vials of AICAR and P7C3! This may be appealing to those who cannot do physical exercise, and for the lazy ones, who do not want to!) Note, too, that the mouse was on the running wheel 3 hours per day for several days; in other words exercise should be sustained and continu-

ous. Moral: It is thus a good idea for senior citizens to start and continue exercise early enough, say from their forties onwards. It is good for the overall body and the brain.

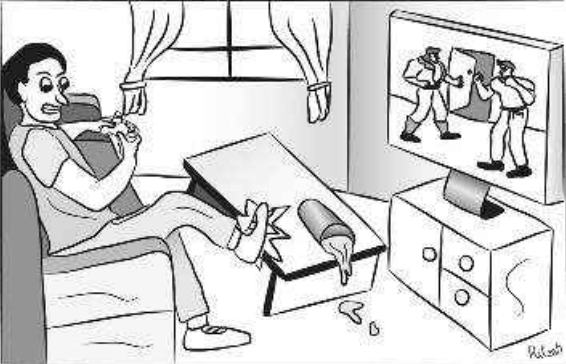
### Does meditation help?

One issue that neither the Harvard paper nor its commentary makes any mention of is on the claim that meditation improves cognition, and is good against neuro-degenerative diseases. A paper by Dr Marcinia and others in *Frontiers in Behavioural Neurosciences*, 2014, (see the link <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnbeh.2014.00017>) has reviewed several studies relating to the meditation - cognitive improvement connection, and conclude that meditation could be a potentially suitable non-pharmacological intervention aimed at the prevention of cognitive decline in the elderly. However, given the limitations due to methods and differences in the various types of meditation used (Buddhist, Zen, Vihangya Yoga, Kirtan Kriya and others), they conclude that further research in this direction could help verify the validity of the findings and clarify the problematic aspects. Here again, sustained long-term meditation appears important and not a one-off type. Here is a set of experiments that some Indian neurosciences laboratories can work on, in order to obtain some molecular and cellular insights on the issue.

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HEALTHLINE RITESH KUMAR



“Playing violent video games is associated with an increase in physical aggression over time.” — *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*.

AROUND THE WORLD



New antibody for cancer treatment

A team of researchers in Spain, Switzerland and the U.S. has homed in on a specific antibody, called the p95HER2-T cell bispecific antibody (TCB), that can successfully guide immune cells, known as lymphocytes, directly to cancerous ones for their targeted killing. Among the key hurdles in cancer immunotherapy — an emerging approach to cancer medicine — is to ensure that these therapeutics only target cancerous cells and not healthy tissue. This direct delivery is achieved thanks to the p95HER2 protein, which is only located in tumour cells. The study represents a new therapeutic avenue and fresh hope for patients who have ceased to respond to current therapies. This novel immune-based approach, say the researchers involved, can be used to tackle certain HER2+ breast cancers through its exclusive targeting of cancerous cells. The findings have been published in *Science Translational Medicine*.

Fat? It is all in your head

Results from a survey in China indicate that the prevalence of childhood obesity nearly tripled from 6.5% to 16.8% between 2000 and 2011, but children’s perception of being fat remained at 2%. The study also found that 49% of children underestimated their weight status at the start of the study. Children who perceived themselves as being fat at the start of the study had a higher increase in body mass index over time than those with an average body image. Boys, young children and rural children had higher body mass index increases than their counterparts. Over time, a thin body silhouette became more desirable. The study analysed data on 4,605 children aged 6-17 years at baseline. The study’s authors say that children who were able to resolve a negative body image could bring great self-motivation towards a healthy lifestyle. The findings have been published in *Obesity*.



A problem of over-prescribing

Clinicians, says a study, prescribed antibiotics without an infection-related diagnosis nearly half of the time and one in five prescriptions was provided without an in-person visit. The research looked at outpatient antibiotic prescribing and analysed more than half a million prescriptions from 514 outpatient clinics. Previous research has found antibiotics are often prescribed for certain symptoms (such as a sore throat or cough) when they should not be. Most of these types of illnesses are caused by viruses and therefore do not benefit from antibiotics, which only treat bacterial infections. The prescribers included physicians, attending physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants in key medical specialties such as obstetrics/gynaecology, cardiology, and gastroenterology. The study was presented at the meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Cheaper way to make vaccines

Researchers in the U.S. claim to have developed a less expensive way to produce vaccines that cuts the costs of vaccine production and storage by up to 80% without decreasing safety or effectiveness. Their solution has been to engineer a live-attenuated Zika vaccine in the DNA form. Once the DNA is delivered into the body, it launches the vaccine in cells, leading to antibody production and other protective immunity. Thus, there is no need to manufacture the vaccine in cell culture or eggs at factories — the traditional approaches to making vaccines. Because DNA molecules are shelf stable, the vaccine will not expire at warm temperatures and could be stockpiled at room temperature for years. Using the Zika vaccine as a model, the research group has shown that the DNA platform worked very efficiently in mice. After a single low dose, the DNA vaccine protected mice from Zika virus infection, mother-to-foetus transmission during pregnancy and male reproductive tract infection and damage. The findings have been published in *EBioMedicine*.



Gene network found for spinal cord injury

Scientists have determined a gene signature that is linked to the severity of spinal cord injury in animals and humans, according to a study. The discovery of key genes that are switched on or off in response to spinal cord injury could inform the development of biomarkers that predict recovery and possibly pinpoint new targets for treatment. The team first reviewed past experiments to find genes associated with the response to spinal cord injury, searching through more than 500 studies, and found 151 human genes were linked in more than one study. Further analysis showed that the genes are biologically and functionally related, coding for groups of protein molecules that physically interact with one another. The findings have been published in the open access journal *eLife*.

DEMYSTIFYING SCIENCE

What are turbidity currents?

They are fast-moving currents that sweep down submarine canyons, carrying sand and mud into the deep sea. However, there is more to them than just sediment-laden seawater flowing over the sea floor, and they also involve large-scale movements of the sea floor itself. This discovery could help ocean engineers avoid damage to pipelines, communications cables, and other sea floor structures. Geologists have known about turbidity currents since at least 1929, when a large earthquake triggered a violent current that travelled several hundred kilometres and damaged 12 trans-Atlantic communications cables. Turbidity currents are still a threat today, as people place more and more cables, pipelines, and other structures on the sea floor. Turbidity currents are also important to petroleum geologists because they leave behind layers of sediment that comprise some of the world’s largest oil reserves. — Science Daily

Cutting corners on medicine

Consumption of poor quality medicines could be accelerating drug resistance. India has to share some of the blame

VIDYA KRISHNAN



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

It is common for patients to stop taking medicines as soon as they start feeling better. Doctors have blamed this particular habit — of not completing the entire dose of antibiotics — to the emergence of drug resistant strains in diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis (TB). However, experts say that under-dosing, or the use of poor quality medicines, could be accelerating this drug resistance. Seen this way, India — which is one of the world’s largest manufacturers and exporters of generic medicine — could be contributing to the rise in drug resistant strains of diseases.

“India’s proud to call itself the ‘world’s pharmacy’, and it should be. But it comes with a huge responsibility,” says Dr. Elizabeth Pisani, epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. “If the world’s pharmacy is selling poorly-made products — if they’re selling crap, to put it bluntly — then sick people don’t get cured; they may even die.”

India could take a lot of credit for supplying affordable medicines to treat TB and malaria around the world. But this progress is being “reversed” because of growing resistance, and India “has to take some of the blame” due to medicines that “don’t work very well, medicines that cut corners on ac-

tive ingredients or don’t dissolve correctly... superbugs are spreading,” says Dr. Pisani.

Results of JAMA study

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that one in 10 medical products sold in low- and middle-income countries such as India are either substandard or falsifiedSF.

A recent study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that 12.4% of antibiotics and 19.1% of antimalarials in such countries were SF. WHO defines “sub-standard” medicines as products that are “out of specification” — products that have degraded since they left the factory during transportation or storage and fail to meet quality standards. Falsified drugs are medical products that deliberately/fraudulently misrepresent their identity, composition or source. SF medicines can cause serious (sometimes fatal) injuries

to patients; they can prolong an illness due to wrong dosage or the lack of an active ingredient, which could result in emergence of drug resistance.

In the November 2015 edition of the *Review on Antimicrobial Medicine*, Dr. Pisani noted that “every shred” of available evidence suggested that poor quality medicines were contributing to the development of drug resistant pathogens in lower income countries.

India’s standards

Chloroquine, for example, is often used in place of newer antimalarials, delivering the customary bitter taste and perhaps reducing fever, but not effectively clearing parasites. Also, standards set by India’s national drug regulator, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), are partly to blame. Dr. Pisani notes: “The CDSCO suggests that medicines can be short of up to 30% of the ac-

tive ingredient before they are considered seriously sub-standard — that’s three times the shortfall generally allowed for most anti-infective medicines in the British or U.S. pharmacopeia. Indian manufacturers who persistently churn out medicines with just 70% of the advertised active ingredients may suffer administrative sanctions, according to the official guidance, but it recommends against prosecution.”

Dinesh Thakur, the whistleblower who exposed data manipulation by Indian drug maker Ranbaxy in 2013, says that unless the Drugs and Cosmetics Act is amended to include severe penalties for those manufacturing substandard drugs, nothing will change. “Dr. Pisani’s assertion is linked to the guidance the CDSCO has put out that there could be a variance of +/- 30% in dose response for generic drugs to be sold in India. As a regulatory response, the first step should be to tighten our specifications to not allow substandard drugs on the market.”

Lack of engagement from the CDSCO was a consistent talking point at the week-long and first-ever academic conference on ‘Medicine Quality & Public Health (MQPH)’, in London, in September.

Dr. Pisani cautions: “Right now, a lot of companies appear to operate on a ‘let’s see what we can get

If the world’s pharmacy [India] is selling poorly-made products, then sick people don’t get cured; they may even die.”

Dr. ELIZABETH PISANI, Epidemiologist, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London

away with’ basis. If they are shipping to the European Union, the products are of top quality. But if the medicines are going to Niger, where they probably won’t get checked, companies tend to cut a few corners in production or packaging. It really makes no sense to put the onus for quality control on 192 countries, when one country is producing medicines for so many of them. China is beginning to challenge India for the title of the world’s pharmacy, and Beijing is paying a lot more attention to quality control than Delhi is. So, you can guess which pharmacy the world is going to start shopping at soon.”

No response

The CDSCO did not participate in the conference and the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), Es-wara Reddy, did not respond to queries from *The Hindu*, on India’s position on the subject.

Vidya Krishnan is a freelance journalist. E-mail: vidyakrishnan13@gmail.com

Sunscreen exposed?



**Shedding light:** A study by the Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) has shown that an extensive amount of sunscreen chemicals in seawater that could pose a risk to human health. The study, a world-first in identifying the harm that can be caused by a combination of polluting chemicals in sunscreen, has found the chemicals can cause abnormalities in zebrafish embryo. As the genetic structure of zebrafish (*in picture*) resembles that of humans, the results imply that these contaminants could pose a risk to humans. The study has shown that these contaminants are commonly found in the coastal waters off Hong Kong. The team, led by Dr Kelvin Leung Sze-yin, Associate Professor of the Department of Chemistry of HKBU, collected seawater samples from 30 locations. It also collected fish, shrimps, mussels and other wild organisms from seven local aquaculture farms around Hong Kong. The team detected the presence of UV filters (benzophenone-3 or BP-3; ethylhexyl methoxycinnamate or EHMC and octocrylene or OC) in concentrations ranging from 3.1 to 51.3 nanograms in each gram of the samples. The findings indicated that UV filters that accumulated in marine life could possibly pass up the food chain to humans and affect our health. Organic or chemical UV filters that can absorb or block UV radiation, are extensively applied in personal care products including sunscreens. Besides, UV filters are also widely found in textiles, plastics and rubber as protection against photo-degradation. The findings have been published in the academic scientific journal, *Environmental Science & Technology*. — PR Newswire ■ AFP/ANTHONY WALLACE

Slow, but steady

A decline in running speeds may be less steep than many of us fear

GRETCHEN REYNOLDS

Most of us who are older competitive runners are not able to race at anywhere near the same speed as we did when we were 30.

But we can perhaps aim to slow down at the same pace as Bernard Lagat, Ed Whitlock and other greats of masters running, according to a timely new analysis by two professors from Yale University.

The new analysis, which refines famous past research by one of the scientists, finds that, although declines in running performance with age are ineluctable, they may be less steep than many of us fear.

And, perhaps most important, the new research updates a popular formula and calculator that runners past the age of 40 can use to determine how fast we can expect to slow down and provides us with reasonable, age-appropriate finishing-time targets for ourselves.

Age-related

Scientists do not know precisely why, from a physiological standpoint, we are less able to maintain our old, swifter pace as we reach middle age. There is evidence from past studies

that even in lifelong athletes, hearts become a bit less efficient over time at pumping blood and delivering oxygen and muscles a bit less adept at creating sustained power. Changes deep within our cells, particularly in the energy-producing mitochondria, are thought to contribute to these age-related performance declines, as are simpler explanations such as creeping weight gain and a drop-off in hard training. But the upshot is that, after a certain point, we cannot keep up with the kids or with our own previous bests.

On the data trail

Professor Ray Fair, an economist at Yale who mainly analyses and predicts election outcomes, is familiar with this tribulation, since, now in his mid-70s, he is also an experienced masters marathon runner whose times have been slowing year by year. About a decade ago, he began to wonder whether his rate of performance decline was typical and, being a predictive statistical modeller, decided to find out.

He turned first to information about world records for runners by age group. These times represent what is possible by the best run-



GETTY IMAGES

ners in the world as they age.

And cumulatively, he found, the records proved that champion runners slow like the rest of us.

But there was a pattern to the slowing, Fair realised. As he reported in a 2007 study, the masters world record times rose in a linear fashion, with some hiccups, until about age 70, when they begin to soar at a much higher rate.

Using statistical modelling based on this pattern, Fair developed a formula that could predict how fast other, less-exceptional runners might expect to run as they grew older. He incorporated this formula into an influential calculator that he made available free on his website. (The calculator also predicts age-related performance declines in

swimming and chess, using the same statistical techniques.)

The calculator soon became popular with runners, for whom it provided age-adjusted viable goal times, allowing them to swap despondency about their current plodding for gratification if they had managed to remain at or near their “regression line,” as Fair termed the age-adjusted predicted finishes.

But recently, Fair began to question whether his statistical model provided the best estimates of people’s likely race times and, for the new analysis, which was published in print this month in *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, he approached a Yale colleague, Edward Kaplan.

Together, Fair and Kaplan reanalysed data about world masters running records through 2016 for the 5 km, 10 km, half marathon and marathon events, up to age 95.

Finally, Fair has now introduced an updated version of his calculator, incorporating the new models.

To use it, visit his endearingly austere website at fair-model.econ.yale.edu/aging and click on the link entitled “All other running (2018 updated age factors).”

NY TIMES

A second look at dyslexia



NANDINI CHATTERJEE SINGH

struction. Neuroscience has firmly established that dyslexia is due to neurobiological differences in brain wiring and structure; it also has a strong genetic basis. Individuals with dyslexia might have challenges with reading and spelling but many of them have exceptional pattern recognition, art, nursing and entrepreneurial abilities. Goal 4 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) says that universal literacy in education (of which reading is a primary component) must be achieved by 2030. Given that population statistics indicate that the incidence in dyslexia is as high as 8-10 % (which means 8 to 10 people in a room of 100) cannot read well, it will be impossible to achieve Goal 4 for ‘universal literacy’.

Developments in the ‘science of learning’ have shown that reading is acquired because of a process called neuroplasticity. Neuroplasticity is the ability of the brain to form new connections. In short, there is no region in the brain designated for reading. Reading happens because children learn to map sounds (of a language) to symbols (writing systems) and then form words. Reading research shows that this happens best in a language that the child speaks.

This new mapping which happens because of ‘neuroplasticity’ now forms a reading circuit in the brain. This means that the brain is ‘malleable’. Neuroscience research also shows that the brain learns best if it is taught in ways that use all the senses — also called ‘multisensory learning’. Finally, we also now know that learning requires ‘practice’. The brain works like a muscle, and repeating the process helps the child build a strong and stable reading circuit. Remember the first time at the gym? We need to make the process of learning to read fun and multisensory.

How then can we ensure that Goal 4 is achieved? A three-fold action plan could be tried out. One, build awareness of dyslexia. All teachers should know how the brain works, how it learns and the fact that we each have a different brain. A classroom does not consist of 30 copies of the same individual brain. Each child learns differently and the classroom needs to cater to all. Two, build awareness among parents and doctors about ‘dyslexia’. Strangely, many doctors, especially paediatricians, don’t know enough about dyslexia and, therefore, this needs to be part of their programmes too. Three, build this into policy. India has made a headstart here. In December 2016, Specific Learning Disability (SLD) was included in the Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act, 2016. While the government is struggling to find the right ways to implement it, this movement needs momentum.

Governments everywhere need to recognise that one of the biggest reasons for students dropping out of school is because of dyslexia. Recent research also shows that this might also be an important reason for street crime. A study in the U.K., in 2012, showed that 53% of (2,029) prisoners were dyslexic, compared to 10% of the U.K.’s population. Education systems need to be designed to be flexible, to accommodate diversity in the classroom. The ‘out of the box’ unconventional thinking ability needs to be nurtured and encouraged. Astrophysicist Christopher Tonkin (and a dyslexic) described his unusual sensitivity to “things out of place” as an advantage to detect visual anomalies in large amounts of visual data. Another dyslexic, molecular biologist Carol Greider was one of the three winners of the Nobel for Medicine in 2009, bagging it for her work on the structure of telomeres. In an age where technology reads to you (audiobooks) and computers write for you and calculators add for you, it may be time to revise the definition of education in Goal 4 — from ‘education for literacy’ to ‘education for humanity’. The description of dyslexia needs to change — from a ‘learning disability’ to a ‘learning difference’.

Nandini Chatterjee Singh, a neuroscientist, is Senior National Programme Officer, UNESCO-MGIEP, New Delhi



# Inside a troubled House

The Watergate journalist pieces together a damning account of the chaos that pervades the Trump administration

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

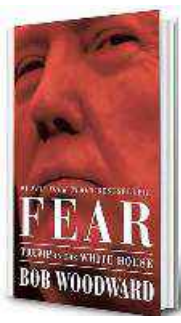
From a man renowned for his seminal reportage on eight U.S. presidencies, from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama, comes *Fear*, a damning account of the explosive volatility, unending chaos and boundless narcissism pervading the administration of Donald Trump, America's 45th Commander-in-Chief.

Bob Woodward, Associate Editor at the *Washington Post*, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and co-author of the epochal investigative newsbreaks on the Watergate scandal that brought down President Nixon, has in a sense mirrored the core insight of Michael Wolff's *Fire and Fury* – that there is a frightening degree of randomness behind policy outcomes of the White House.

### 'Deep background'

Yet this fly-on-the-wall account sets itself apart from Wolff's as it is pitched a couple of notches higher on the scale of journalistic credibility, rigour and restrained writing.

Early on, Woodward is quick to let readers know that the hundreds of hours of his interviews with first-hand sources, the basis of this narrative, were conducted on "deep background," which essentially anonymises most quotations and comments, even if many of those were tape-recorded by the author and the sources were directly involved in White House meetings. Trump, of course, declined to be interviewed for *Fear*, but that is hardly surprising for a President who has been associated with a visceral distaste for the



■ **Fear: Trump in the White House**  
Bob Woodward  
Simon & Schuster India  
₹799

media more than any of his predecessors in recent history.

Nevertheless, even from the earliest pages of the book, it is evident that Woodward has pieced together a coherent picture of the unique operational style of the Trump White House – apparently driven in large part by a concerted, clandestine effort by a group of senior White House officials determined to "block what they believed were the President's most dangerous impulses," even if that was tantamount to "an administrative coup d'état, an undermining of the will of the President of the United States and his constitutional authority."

Take the disturbing episode when Trump, driven by his obsession with eliminating trade deficits with partner countries, started questioning why the U.S. was paying \$1 billion a year for an anti-ballistic missile system in South Korea. Despite the best efforts of Defence Secretary James Mattis and others to explain to their boss that it was North Korean leader Kim Jong Un who posed a serious



**Torn between the two:** 'Trump's 2016 campaign and his subsequent propaganda captured the mood of a disgruntled demographic subset aching for political change.' Picture shows a Trump supporter closing his ears while passing protesters. ■ AP

threat to American interests and the long-standing free trade agreement with treaty ally South Korea, called KORUS, mattered for peace in the Korean Peninsula, events took a dangerous turn.

Perhaps responding to Trump's outbursts in the Oval Office on this subject, his son-in-law and senior White House adviser Jared Kushner penned a draft letter announcing that the U.S. would exit the deal. Though Chief Economic Advisor Gary Cohn and Staff Secretary Rob Porter tried their best, on

September 5, 2017, the draft letter reached Resolute Desk. Cohn had to act fast, says Woodward, and he did – he literally snatched the letter, whose content is reproduced in full in the book, off the desk and Trump never laid eyes on that document.

### Ear to the ground?

While the book is peppered with highly readable analyses of numerous other such incidents, where foreign and domestic policy outcomes teetered on the brink of a

presidential tantrum, the candour of the entire narrative – down to the frequent use of profanity by the protagonists – reveals a different dimension of the Trump phenomenon.

Whatever you think of him and of #MAGA, it is evident from Woodward's book that Trump's 2016 campaign and his subsequent propaganda captured the mood, if not of a nation, of a disgruntled demographic subset aching for political change. Even Trump's ideological mentors,

# Blurred vision

Two writers who know the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh well fail to explain how Muslims or Dalits are reading the Sangh

VIKAS PATHAK

Walter Anderson and Shridhar Damle's book *The RSS: A View To The Inside* is a useful primer for journalists seeking information on Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh resolutions or its affiliates and a source of talking points for RSS supporters.

Yet, while it seeks to present itself as an academic or semi-academic work, the book is replete with methodological weaknesses. It seeks to argue that the Sangh has evolved over the last three decades, and that the meaning of Hindutva for its rank and file has got complicated.

### What defines Hindu-ness

The authors argue that the Sangh has moved from Veer Savarkar's definition of Hindu-ness implying a convergence of fatherland and holy land within India to a Hindutva that just has "loyalty to the nation" as its essence.

So, while for Savarkar Muslims and Christians were not Hindus, as their holy land lay outside India, the RSS's present Hindutva has veered around to including these religions, albeit on its own terms, as Hindus. This is reminiscent of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent Delhi lectures, but this is not enough for a good academic book. Even if this were true, one is left to wonder why a description should be thrust on the minorities.

The book details how the RSS top brass would want to be seen, something that an RSS publication could have done as well. However, an academic book has to engage with existing academic literature on the subject, locate its gaps and adduce evidence from multiple sources to move beyond it.

The book, strangely, has no review of literature. It does not deal with earlier works on Hindutva or RSS. It presumes that its only predecessor is the authors' previous book, *The Brotherhood of Saffron*.

The authors could have done well to engage with how, say, Christophe Jaffrelot sees the Sangh's worldview as "a simultaneous stigmatisation and emulation of threatening others," meaning primarily the Muslim. It could have engaged and critiqued Peter van der Veer's work that sees it as an exclusivist conception of religious nationalism. It could well have reviewed John Zavos' work that sees it as an imitation of the "discourse of organisation" that British rule brought to India.

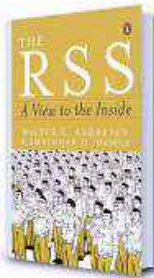
The book does none of this. It creates a definition of Hindutva in a vacuum and entirely exclusive of a plethora of academic literature around the RSS and Hindutva.

### The minority view

When it proceeds in this fashion – sometimes citing theorists and scholars to 'agree' with their works that might



**Ready, steady:** The book seeks to argue that the meaning of Hindutva for its rank and file has got complicated. Image shows a young RSS supporter at a convention in Agra. ■ S. SUBRAMANIAM



■ **The RSS: A View to the Inside**  
Walter K. Anderson & Shridhar D. Damle  
Viking/ PRH  
₹699

be on a different theme – the book makes no attempt to see how, say, sections of Muslims or Dalits are reading the RSS.

To seek an understanding of an organisation primarily through the claims it makes, and without even attempting to see how different sections of society are reading those claims, does not add up to an academically rigorous work.

### Breaking barriers?

Another argument that the book makes is that the RSS' social base has deepened with its expansion, and that the Sangh goes beyond caste. This claim may have some merit.

The RSS has sought to reach out to the Scheduled Tribes in a major way and has also attempted a Dalit outreach more recently, sometimes claiming untouchability to be a medieval phenomenon.

An article by a senior RSS functionary in *The Organiser's* 2015 collectors' edition on B.R. Ambedkar claimed that Ambedkar saw untouchability as linked to Muslim invasions. Volume-7 of Vasant Moon's collection of Ambedkar's writings and speeches, however, makes it clear he placed it in 400 AD

and linked it to the ostracism of beef eaters.

The RSS shakha surely is open to all castes, but the Sangh's reform zeal is not as radical as, say, the Arya Samaj's Jullundhri branch in colonial times. Zavos seems to be right in his interpretation that the RSS at a theoretical level replaces caste with the Sangh itself as the prime organising principle and thus makes it less relevant for the swayamsevak.

### Community ties

However, some observations of Anderson and Damle are insightful. They are perhaps right in saying that those who feel rootless in a liberalised world feel a salience for the bonds of community and family the RSS advocates. Many Hindus seem to think like this today, also partly because the Congress lost its conservative Hindu side a few decades back, embracing secularism as its prime discourse around 1990.

While not saying so explicitly, the book captures a fundamental aspect of the RSS: the focus on the long-term goal of Hindu consolidation while maintaining tactical flexibility. This is why the Sangh permits beef-eating in north-east, burying of the dead by Hinduised tribals in Chhattisgarh and Shakhars that women also attend in the U.S. However, the reader has to know the Sangh well to be able to fathom this from the book.

The authors use economic development as an empty signifier when they claim that the discourse of development makes the BJP today inclusive for all, including Muslims. Development is a contested term with several possible meanings, but the book takes it as a given. In fact, a discourse of development privileging the prosperous may end up othering communities that are underdeveloped and see them as lagards in the national journey.

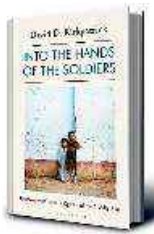
# Stealing a revolution

A ringside view of Arab Spring and its aftermath in Egypt

STANLEY JOHNY

In January 2010, Egyptian military intelligence chief Abdel Fattah el-Sisi submitted a report to his generals, predicting that there could be protests against the regime of Hosni Mubarak. Sisi asked the military not to side with the regime if that happened. When Egyptian streets erupted into anti-Mubarak demonstrations in early 2011, the generals did exactly what Sisi said, writes David D. Kirkpatrick in his book, *Into the Hands of the Soldiers*. But even the generals at that time failed to foresee the eventual rise of Sisi as a strongman who would restore the military's power in a chaotic post-Mubarak Egypt. Kirkpatrick witnessed and reported this period of mass uprising, coup and counter-coup in Egypt as the *New York Times'* Cairo bureau chief, and the book offers a first-hand account of the same.

He arrived in Cairo a few months before protests shook the Arab world. There was so much hope in the air when dictators were felled by popular anger. "They



■ **Into the Hands of the Soldiers: Freedom and Chaos in Egypt and the Middle East**  
David D. Kirkpatrick  
Bloomsbury  
₹599

were all so heroic, so ingenious, but also so familiar. Of course we fell for them," he writes about the Egyptian protesters. Kirkpatrick describes how people of different faiths and political ideas came together in Cairo's Tahrir Square with one common goal – oust Mubarak. They succeeded with help from the army. But the tragedy of the Egyptian revolution was that it was more of a coup against the dictator than an actual revolution that would have recast the structures of the country's authoritarian state.

Kirkpatrick explains why this has happened. The liberals who joined hands with

the Islamists were not ready to accept Mohamed Morsi, a member of the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood, as President. When Morsi granted himself unlimited power in late 2012, a few months after his election, they launched massive protests, with tacit help from Sisi. The protests set the stage for the 2013 coup by Sisi against President Morsi.

If Kirkpatrick was fascinated by the revolutionary vigour of the liberals at the beginning of the protests in 2011, by 2013, their cheering for the military, even after soldiers massacred hundreds of Islamists in Cairo, "broke his heart". By the time he left Cairo in 2015, Sisi had re-established a Mubarak-type, if not worse, regime in Egypt. Politics in Egypt has come full circle. This is not a dense historical work that offers insights into the complex actors such as the military, the Salafis, the Muslim Brothers, liberals and leftists of Egypt's upheaval. It's rather a journalistic chronicle of Egypt's chaotic years. And Kirkpatrick has succeeded in telling the story of Egypt's tragedy engagingly.

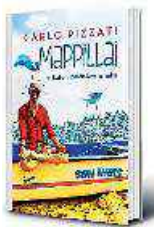
# Country musings

How an 'outsider' made himself at home in Chennai

R. KRITHIKA

From now on, every time my husband brings up a trip to Chennai, I am going to brandish Carlo Pizzati's *Mappillai: An Italian son-in-law in India*, specifically the pages titled "White man's privilege in Chennai's spiral traffic", before him and ask in horrified tones, "You want to go back to that?" Not that I am a *vellai* (white), as Pizzati terms himself; it's just that his descriptions of the hell that is Chennai's traffic are just too delicious to be locked away inside the pages of a book.

To start with, the Contents section itself makes for entertaining reading. I giggle over "... how the woman who forgot having met me changed my destiny" and identify with "... snakes, rats, frogs and other fauna teaching a lesson about Nature" and sigh over "Dealing with the kind extortions of our daily lives", having had to deal



■ **Mappillai: An Italian son-in-law in India**  
Carlo Pizzati  
Simon & Schuster  
₹399

with the latter two quite often in the past year.

*Mappillai* is part love story, part memoir, part philosophical musings... all of which are tied together with wry humour, some grumpiness and a large dose of acceptance.

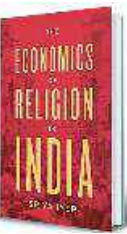
Pizzati met poet-dancer Tishani Doshi on a trip to India in 2008 and they got married in 2014 in what he calls "my big fat Jain Scottish Welsh Venetian Indian wedding." Enough to make one's

head reel! Bookended between these two events is Pizzati's journey through various countries and cultures until he finally settles down in Paramakeni, near Chennai.

In between his accounts of coping with open defecation, villagers seeking 'donations' for a local temple, the role of the mango in Indian identity and more, Pizzati offers shrewd observations on caste and class differences, the yawning gap between the rich and the poor, attitudes of foreigners, bribery.... Some of which make you wince, recognising the truth of his statement; some you need to put aside to think about; still others bring a slight flush of annoyance before you ruefully accept that he has a point.

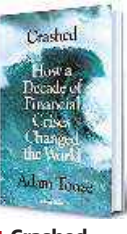
I guess, at the end of the day, it's good to see ourselves as others see us, even if the other has been co-opted to become one of us.

## BOOKSHELF



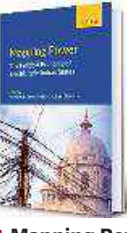
■ **The Economics of Religion in India**  
Sriya Iyer  
Harvard University Press  
₹799

The tools of economics can offer an insight into how religious groups compete, deliver social services, and reach out to potential converts. Iyer puts these tools to use to carry out an expansive study of religiously diverse India. She explores how growth, inequality, education, technology and social trends affect and are affected by religious groups.



■ **Crashed**  
Adam Tooze  
Allen Lane/ PRH  
₹1,499

In September 2008 the financial crisis, triggered by the collapse of Lehman brothers, shook the world. A decade later its spectre haunts us. This is an analysis of what happened and how the rescue came at a price. Over and over again, the end of the crisis has been announced, but it hounds us, whether in Greece or Ukraine or elsewhere.



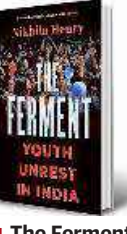
■ **Mapping Power: The Political Economy of Electricity in India's States**  
Edited by Navroz K. Dubash & others  
Oxford University Press  
₹1,195

In spite of several decades of reform, the Indian electricity sector is unable to provide high-quality and affordable electricity for all, and grapples with the challenge of poor financial and operational performance. Scholars examine the condition in 15 States and map the political and economic forces that constrain and shape decisions in electricity distribution.



■ **Retro India**  
R.M. Rajgopal  
Manipal University Press  
₹350

India has changed – the latter half of the 20th century has seen the country turning digital, and moving on to the world of mobiles among other crucial economic indicators. The writer shares the extensive knowledge gained over years in the HR field and documents the positive and negative changes of the time and its impact on human lives.



■ **The Ferment: Youth Unrest in India**  
Nikhila Henry  
Pan Macmillan India  
₹599

The youth agitations around the country after Rohith Vemula's suicide in Hyderabad were not sporadic protests but expressions of discontent and outrage, argues the writer. From caste to class, gender to sexuality, students have "interrogated deeply problematic ideas and attitudes embedded in the heart of India," says Henry, as she gives us a guided tour of youth battles.



# Kuldeep leads spinners' charge in India's rout of Windies

The left-arm wrist-spinner's five-for in the second innings after Ashwin's four in the first consign the visitors to a massive innings defeat

## WINDIES IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR  
RAJKOT

The writing was clear on the wall at the end of the second day's play.

The lone talking point on Saturday morning was whether the West Indies batsmen had skills to lay anchor and stretch the match into the fourth day's play.

But India's spinners required only 20-odd minutes into the last session to earn the remaining 14 wickets and complete a rout in the first Test at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

### Record win

Thanks to R. Ashwin's four wickets in the first innings and Kuldeep Yadav's five in the second after the West Indies was made to follow on, India cruised to a record win by an innings and 272 runs.

The West Indies did score at a run-rate of almost four an over but the fact that both its innings combined lasted less than 100 overs meant that the scoring rate had little impact on the eventual outcome of the match.

Starting the day at 94 for six in its first essay, with a humongous deficit of 555 runs, Roston Chase and Keemo Paul adopted the aggressive route against Mohammed Shami and Kuldeep. The latter was particularly punished as Paul and Chase kept sweeping his predictable length.

After adding 53 runs at almost run-a-ball in the morning, Paul succumbed to Umesh Yadav's bouncer, with his pull finding a lunging Cheteshwar Pujara at mid-wicket.

That was the only wicket

### Stat attack



**1** The margin of an innings and 272 runs is India's biggest win in Tests, surpassing the innings and 262-run victory against Afghanistan (Bengaluru, June 2018)

**3** In the last three home Tests, India has beaten the West Indies by an innings margin within three days

**7** India has now won all the seven Tests in which it has taken a first-innings lead of 400-plus runs

**7** Kuldeep Yadav became the seventh in the elite club of bowlers who have a five-for in all three formats of the game – Tim Southee (NZ), Lasith Malinga (SL), Ajantha Mendis (SL), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (Ind), Umar Gul (Pak) and Imran Tahir (SA) are the others

of the day for a pacer, with the spinners taking over.

Ashwin, having struggled to find his rhythm on the second evening, bowled a delightful spell, leaving the Windies tail with no answers at all.

When Rishabh Pant stumped Shannon Gabriel off Ashwin to wrap up the Windies first innings before lunch, the visiting team had conceded a lead of 468 runs and Virat Kohli had no hesitation in asking it to follow on.

After all, having bowled less than 20 overs in the morning, his bowlers were far from being tired.

Ashwin – who shared the new ball with Shami – had given India the breakthrough before lunch, with stand-in captain Kraigg Brathwaite spooning a catch

to Prithvi Shaw at forward short-leg.

For the next 11 overs, Kieran Powell and Shai Hope looked in little discomfort but once Kuldeep broke the 47-run stand – the highest of the innings for the West Indies – the floodgates opened.

The left-arm wrist-spinner looked a different bowler, with the middle-order batsmen helping him with their ordinary shot selection.

### Regular strikes

Powell found little support at the other end with Kuldeep striking regularly. It was Powell who eventually helped Kuldeep earn his maiden five-for, with the left-hander dabbling one to Shaw at silly point who took it in front of his face.



**Remused:** Sherman Lewis can just watch his off-stump take a walk off an R. Ashwin special in the first innings. • VIVEK BENDRE

### SCOREBOARD INDIA VS WEST INDIES, FIRST TEST, THIRD DAY

**India – 1st innings:** 649 for nine decl.

**West Indies – 1st innings:** Kraigg Brathwaite b Shami 2 (10b), Kieran Powell lbw b Shami 1 (6b), Shai Hope b Ashwin 10 (22b, 2x4), Shimron Hetmyer run out 10 (28b, 1x4), Sunil Ambris c Rahane b Jadeja 12 (20b, 2x4), Roston Chase b Ashwin 53 (79b, 8x4), Shane Dowrich b Kuldeep 10 (35b, 1x4), Keemo Paul c Pujara b Umesh 47 (49b, 7x4, 2x6), Devendra Bishoo (not out) 17 (26b, 3x4), Sherman Lewis b Ashwin 0 (3b), Shannon Gabriel st. Pant b

Ashwin 1 (10b); Extras (b-16, lb-2): 18; Total (in 48 overs): 181.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-2 (Brathwaite, 2.2 overs), 2-7 (Powell, 4.1), 3-21 (Hope, 9.2), 4-32 (Hetmyer, 11.5), 5-49 (Ambris, 16.1), 6-74 (Dowrich, 25.2), 7-147 (Paul, 38.4), 8-159 (Chase, 43.2), 9-159 (Lewis, 43.5).

**India bowling:** Shami 9-2-22-2, Umesh 11-3-20-1, Ashwin 11-2-37-4, Jadeja 7-1-22-1, Kuldeep 10-1-62-1.

**West Indies – 2nd innings:** Kraigg Brathwaite c Shaw b Ashwin 10 (30b, 2x4), Kieran

Powell c Shaw b Kuldeep 83 (93b, 8x4, 4x6), Shai Hope lbw b Kuldeep 17 (34b, 1x4, 1x6), Shimron Hetmyer c Rahul b Kuldeep 11 (11b, 1x6), Sunil Ambris st. Pant b Kuldeep 0 (3b), Roston Chase c Ashwin b Kuldeep 20 (24b, 3x4), Shane Dowrich (not out) 16 (64b, 1x4), Keemo Paul c Umesh b Jadeja 15 (15b, 2x4, 1x6), Devendra Bishoo c Pant b Ashwin 9 (12b, 2x4), Sherman Lewis lbw b Jadeja 4 (15b, 1x4), Shannon Gabriel c Kuldeep b Jadeja 4 (5b, 1x4); Extras (b-5, lb-1, nb-1): 7; Total (in 50.5 overs): 196.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-32 (Brathwaite, 7.6 overs), 2-79 (Hope, 18.6), 3-97 (Hetmyer, 22.1), 4-97 (Ambris, 22.4), 5-138 (Chase, 29.3), 6-151 (Powell, 35.4), 7-172 (Paul, 40.4), 8-185 (Bishoo, 43.6), 9-192 (Lewis, 48.6).

**India bowling:** Shami 3-0-11-0, Ashwin 18-2-71-2, Umesh 3-0-16-0, Kuldeep 14-2-57-5, Jadeja 12.5-1-35-3.

**Man-of-the-Match:** Prithvi Shaw.

India won by an innings and 272 runs to take a 1-0 lead in two-match series.

## Minor changes bring major benefits for Kuldeep

+ Chinaman bowler thrilled with his maiden five-wicket haul in Tests



**Spinning it India's way:** Kuldeep Yadav made life difficult for the West Indies batsmen with his variety. • VIVEK BENDRE

AMOL KARHADKAR  
RAJKOT

With little competition between the two sides, the two-Test series against the West Indies is an opportunity for the Indians to improve their numbers. The first Test saw almost all the Indians, especially the newbies, tick virtually all the boxes.

If debutant Prithvi Shaw set the tone with a rollicking hundred on the first morning, Rishabh Pant, whose wicket-keeping continued to be exposed, scored an aggressive 92 on the second day. The last day saw Kuldeep Yadav, playing only in his fourth Test, claim his maiden five-wicket haul.

### Second Indian

The achievement also meant Kuldeep, the chinaman bowler, became only the second Indian after Bhuvneshwar Kumar and seventh in the world to have achieved a five-wicket haul in each of

the three formats in international cricket.

"To take a five-wicket haul in Test cricket is obviously very special for any bowler. For me it is very special to take five wickets against any side," Kuldeep said.

"West Indies is a good side, they were attacking and when someone is doing that you tend to bowl short and fuller, so the five-wicket haul is very special."

The day, however, didn't pan out the way he would have liked it to. He started proceedings along with Mohammed Shami and was tonked all over by the overnight unbeaten pair of Roston Chase and Keemo Paul.

Despite conceding 43 off his six overs in the morning, Kuldeep came back strongly in the second innings.

One could notice the minor change in his bowling technique in both innings. Kuldeep tended to drift away from the crease, with his

non-bowling arm tilting towards fine-leg while bowling to a right-hander in the morning.

Once he got his body weight right behind the ball, it was enough to get his act together and bamboozle the visiting batsmen with his mix of leggies and googlies.

"When I started my first spell in the morning, I was thinking of going for wickets. They were going for runs too, so I thought they would give a chance in the process. But when I came back for the second spell, I only focused on the areas I wanted to land the ball, wasn't planning on giving it too much flight. I focused on accuracy rather than experimenting too much," Kuldeep said.

Having been dropped midway through the England series on the back of a mediocre outing, Kuldeep couldn't have asked for a better return upon being recalled to the Test team.

## Learn from India: Brathwaite

Wants West Indies batsmen to believe in themselves

AMOL KARHADKAR  
RAJKOT

Kraigg Brathwaite, who led West Indies in the absence of an injured Jason Holder, admitted that the visitors had to take a leaf out of India's book.

"I think what we can look at is how India batted. We saw the guys getting in and backing themselves. Obviously (Prithvi) Shaw was quite attacking, he was 100% into what he was doing. (Virat) Kohli came in, took his time and flourished," Brathwaite said.

"I think if we can learn from them, that will put us in good stead going forward. Obviously a few nerves, it's Test cricket so its never easy but if we take a page out of their book and take that into our batting... trust in defence and obviously when you attack, go 100% as well."

Brathwaite said the batsmen will have to believe in themselves in the second



**Showing application:** Opener Kieran Powell (83) was the only West Indian to come good in the second essay. • VIVEK BENDRE

Test in Hyderabad starting on October 12.

"We watched footage, but the thing is, it's just about

trusting your plans. I think today we were a lot more positive but we still didn't get the big partnerships."

## Yasir targets 20 Australian scalps

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DUBAI

Match-winning Pakistan spinner Yasir Shah has sent a warning to Australia's batsmen that he is targeting 20 wickets and a win in the two-match Test series starting in Dubai on Sunday.

The 32-year-old has been Pakistan's main spin weapon since making his Test debut against Australia at the same venue four years ago. He and left-arm-er Zulfiqar Babar took 26 wickets between them to rout Australia 2-0.

"I have a target of 20 wickets," Yasir told AFP. "I know how important it will be to take wickets so that remains my target and for the team to win the series which is very important."

Yasir has grown in stature and wickets with each series.

## Afghanistan could be dark horse at World Cup: Munro

P.K. AJITH KUMAR  
SHARJAH

Colin Munro may best be known for breaking records for the fastest hundred and fifty in Twenty20 Internationals, but he averages 51.58 in First Class cricket with 28 scores of above 50 from 48 matches.

The hard-hitting New Zealander has, however, given up red ball cricket and has decided to focus on the shorter formats. Trying to play as much as possible with the white ball, Munro will be turning out for Balkh Legends in the Afghanistan Premier League (APL).

### 'Tough decision'

"To give up First Class cricket was a tough decision and I have been thinking about it for the last couple of years," Munro, who played for Delhi Daredevils in the last IPL, told *The Hindu*. "It wasn't



Colin Munro. • P.K. AJITH KUMAR

easy to give up 10 years of First Class cricket and about 50 matches, but I wasn't getting the rewards I wanted."

He said he also wanted to focus more on next year's World Cup.

"I think New Zealand would play well in English conditions, where we have had successes in the past," he said. "England, West Indies and India too have a good chance in what I think

will be a hotly contested World Cup, with all teams playing each other once."

The Durban-born Munro feels Afghanistan could be a dark horse in England. "They have match-winners with both bat and ball, and they have shown what they could do at the recent Asia Cup," he said.

"I feel the APL would help their cricketers greatly. Rubbing shoulders with some of the best in the world will be beneficial for them."

He said he was impressed with a couple of young Afghan players that he has practised with here.

"And they have already begun asking me questions," he said. "And I will be happy if a couple of young Afghan cricketers gain something by working with players like me at the APL."

(The writer is in Sharjah at the invitation of DSPORT)

## Japanese GP: Hamilton grabs 80th pole



**Joy ride?** Lewis Hamilton will look to wrap up things as early as possible. • CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

Vettel slumps to eighth after horror show

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SUZUKA

World champion Lewis Hamilton roared to pole position for the Japanese Grand Prix as Ferrari rival Sebastian Vettel slumped to eighth after a horror showing in Saturday's qualifying.

Hamilton, who leads Vettel by 50 points with five races left this season, led a Mercedes front-row lockout and will start as the hot favourite to tighten his stranglehold on the Formula One championship in Sunday's race at Suzuka.

The Briton's record-extending 80th career pole never looked in doubt after his rampant form in completing a clean sweep of free practice earlier in the day.

"I can't believe I have 80 poles," said Hamilton, who has won five of the last six races.

Ferrari's decision to begin the top-10 shootout on inter-

mediate tyres instead of super-softs backfired spectacularly as the rain they expected held off just long enough for Hamilton to set a fastest lap of one minute, 27.760 seconds.

### STARTING GRID

**1st row:** Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes), Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes); **2nd row:** Max Verstappen (Red Bull), Kimi Raikkonen (Ferrari); **3rd row:** Romain Grosjean (Haas), Brendon Hartley (Toro Rosso); **4th row:** Pierre Gasly (Toro Rosso), Esteban Ocon, (Force India); **5th row:** Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari), Sergio Perez (Force India); **6th row:** Charles Leclerc (Sauber), Kevin Magnussen (Haas); **7th row:** Carlos Sainz Jr (Renault), Lance Stroll (Williams); **8th row:** Daniel Ricciardo (Red Bull), Nico Hulkenberg (Renault); **9th row:** Sergey Sirotkin (Williams), Fernando Alonso (McLaren); **10th row:** Stoffel Vandoorne (McLaren), Marcus Ericsson (Sauber).



TV PICKS

**FI:** 10.30 a.m.; SS Select 2 (SD & HD).  
**Premier League:** 5 p.m. onwards, SS Select 1 (SD & HD).  
**Serie A:** 6.30 p.m.; Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD).  
**ISL:** 7.15 p.m.; Star Sports 1 & 3 (SD & HD).  
**PKL:** 7.30 p.m.; Star Sports 2 (SD & HD).  
**La Liga:** 7.45 p.m.; Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD).  
**Bundesliga:** 9 p.m.; SS Select 2 (SD & HD).

IN BRIEF



Lakshya to spearhead India's challenge

**NEW DELHI**  
Reigning Asian junior champion Lakshya Sen will spearhead India's campaign at the BWF World junior badminton championships, to be held in Markham, Canada from November 5-18. A 24-member squad including 13 boys and 11 girls will represent India in the tournament with junior World No. 5 Jakka Vaishnavi Reddy leading the girls' squad. The BAI has organised a mandatory preparatory camp for the players selected for the World Juniors in Panchkula from October 16-31. PTI



Kvitova attacker faces up to 12 years in prison

**PRAGUE**  
The man who attacked two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova with a knife at her Czech home in December 2016 is facing up to 12 years in prison, a prosecutor's office said on Friday. The 33-year-old culprit was charged with blackmail, among other things, on Friday, the office said in a statement. "If found guilty of the... crimes, he is facing five to twelve years in prison," it added. AFP

Keerthana Pandian takes the honours

**BENGALURU**  
India's Keerthana Pandian won the IBSF World under-16 girls' snooker championship at St. Petersburg on Saturday. The Karnataka girl defeated compatriot R. Anupama 3-1 in the semifinals before prevailing over Albina Leschuk of Belarus 53-44, 16-49, 62-42, 72-39 in the final.

Nine-wicket win for India Green

**MYSURU**  
India Green registered a facile nine-wicket win over India Red in the Round III BCCI Women's U-23 T20 Challenger Trophy tie here on Saturday.  
**The scores:** India Red 75 in 174 overs (Minnu Mani 25, Shannti Kumari three for 10, Sushree Dibyardarshini three for 14) lost to India Green 79 for one in 16.3 overs (S. Meghana 34 n.o., M.M. Chauhan 22). **Points:** India Green 4, India Red 0.

# FC Goa rams in three against CFC

Shoddy defending from the reigning champion proves its undoing

ISL-5

S. DIPAK RAGAV  
CHENNAI

Like last year, FC Goa handed Chennaiyin FC a defeat in the latter's first home match with a clinical 3-1 win on Saturday.

The visitors scored identical goals at the start of each half thanks to shoddy defending from the reigning champion before Serigne Fall put it beyond the home team in the 80th minute.

Like in its first game against Bengaluru FC, CFC was rusty in defence and Goa made full use of it with its attacking play, pressing high and creating chances.

The visitors did not have to wait long to get on board. A defensive lapse from Chennaiyin's Anirudh Thapa allowed Goa to go ahead in the 12th minute.

Fluffed clearance

A throw-in from the right side near the flag saw Lenny Rodrigues send an innocuous pass only for Thapa to fluff a simple clearance. The pass reached Eduardo Bedia,



On target: FC Goa's Eduardo Bedia (jersey No. 23) makes the most of Chennaiyin FC's defensive lapse. ■ M. VEDHAN

who gleefully shot into the net post.

Soon CFC found its groove with a bit more organised play with good support from Inigo Calderon on the right. But like in the last match, CFC missed easy chances, starting with Thapa who flashed a shot over the top after combining well with Gregory Nelson. Later towards the end of the first half, Nel-

son was once again in the thick of things. He cut beautifully past a defender to take a shot but it went just wide of the post.

It was *deja vu* after the break. In the 53rd minute Seriton Fernandes received a throw-in from Hugo Boumous, who sent in a simple pass near the box. Goa's star striker Ferran Corominas made full use of a sleeping

Chennai defence as he ran in behind unmarked and tapped in to double the visitors' lead. Goa put the game to bed in the 80th minute. After receiving a corner, Ahmed Jahouh sent a ball in that was headed by Corominas towards Mourtada Fall, who in turn headed it past the CFC custodian.

The only consolation for the home team came with a

Today's match  
● BFC vs Jamshedpur FC

minute left when Eli Sabia headed in a corner from Andrea Orlandi. It was Chennaiyin FC's first goal this season. **The result:** Chennaiyin FC 1 (Eli Sabia 90+5) lost to FC Goa 3 (Eduardo Bedia 12, Ferran Corominas 53, Mourtada Fall 80).

## Dortmund wins seven-goal thriller

Alcacer stars with a hat-trick to inspire win over Augsburg

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BERLIN

Substitute Paco Alcacer claimed a stunning hat-trick as his superb 96th-minute free-kick kept Borussia Dortmund top of the Bundesliga after a dramatic 4-3 win over Augsburg on Saturday.

Dortmund slipped 1-0 down after Alfred Finnbogason's first-half goal. But Alcacer equalised in the 62nd minute, just three minutes after coming on, with the Spain international smashing home a cross by teenage winger Jadon Sancho.

Philipp Max restored Augsburg's lead by taking advantage of some poor Dortmund defending, only for Alcacer to claim his second equaliser on 80 minutes when he fired in off the post.

Dortmund led for the first

time on 84 minutes when midfielder Mario Goetze, another second-half replacement, latched onto a great through ball and fired home on his first Bundesliga appearance this season.

The game swung again as Augsburg equalised when Michael Gregoritsch headed home a Max cross to make it 3-3 with just three minutes left.

However, the stage was set for Alcacer to seal the three points after Augsburg's Sergio Cordova gave away a free-kick.

**The results:** Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 4 (Alcacer 62, 80, 90+6, Goetze 84) bt Augsburg 3 (Finnbogason 22, Max 71, Gregoritsch 87); Hannover 3 (Wood 30, 45+1, Bebout 90+1) bt VfB Stuttgart 1 (Gomez 50); Mainz 0 drew with Hertha Berlin 0; Fortuna Dusseldorf 0 lost to Schalke 2 (McKennie 48, Burgstaller 53).

**Premier League:** Burnley 1

(Vokes 20) drew with Huddersfield 1 (Schindler 66); Crystal Palace 0 lost to Wolves 1 (Doherty 56); Leicester 1 (Pereira 40) lost to Everton 2 (Richarlison 7, Sigurdsson 77); Tottenham 1 (Dier 8) bt Cardiff 0; Watford 0 lost to Bournemouth 4 (Brooks 14, King 33-pen, 45, Wilson 47).

**La Liga:** Girona 2 (Stuani 40, 42) lost to Eibar 3 (Charles 12-pen, Arbillas 45, Sergi Enrich 72); Getafe 0 lost to Levante 1 (Bardhi 60).

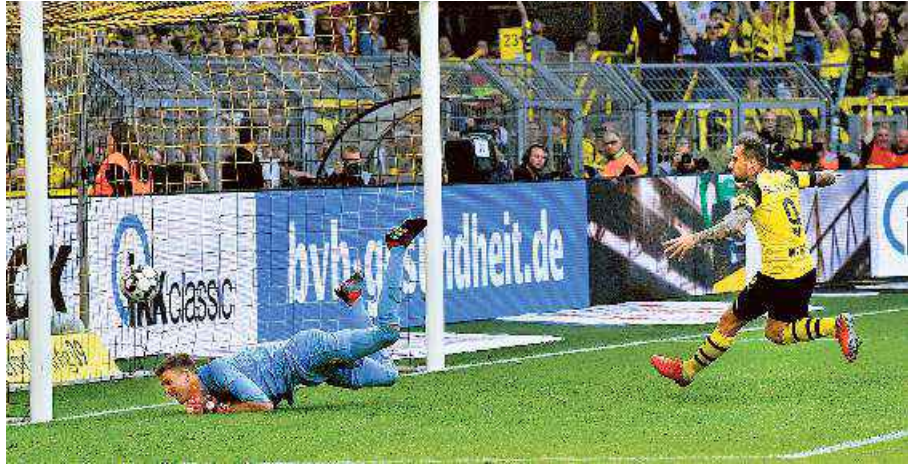
**Serie A:** Cagliari 2 (Joao Pedro 22, Pavoletti 68) bt Bologna 0.

**On Friday: Premier League:** Brighton 1 (Murray 25) bt West Ham 0.

**Serie A:** Torino 3 (Rincon 20, Baselli 46, Berenguer 71) bt Frosinone 2 (Goldaniga 58, Ciano 64).

**La Liga:** Athletic Bilbao 1 (Munain 32) lost to Real Sociedad 3 (Oyarzabal 30-pen 74-pen, Sangalli 47).

**Bundesliga:** Werder Bremen 2 (Klaassen 35, Eggestein 86) bt VfL Wolfsburg 0.



Super sub: Paco Alcacer saved Dortmund's bacon after it twice went in arrears. ■ AP

## I am working on my fitness, says Shamini

'There is a need to have more power and strength'

K. KEERTHIVASAN  
PUNE

After becoming a mother, three-time National table tennis champion K. Shamini feels she has to work on her fitness to keep pace with youngsters.

"I felt I have slowed down a bit. My fitness and endurance have gone down, though my touch and ball sense remains intact," she said, after beating Shiny Gomes in the final qualification match to make it to the main draw of the IISports-West Zone National-ranking table tennis tournament here on Saturday.

"I am not able to dedicate more time on fitness because of the baby. But I am doing it nevertheless as when I find time," she said.

Not easy

Barring the East Zone event in Guwahati, she has played in all the domestic events this year. Her best was a quarterfinal finish in the North Zone event in Panchkula. After taking a break for nearly 16 months and getting back to the table to match youngsters, some of them are nearly half her age, is no easy task. Shamini pretty well knows it.

"All the [top] juniors are playing well. I am yet to reach my peak. With the [plastic] ball you require



Eager and willing: K. Shamini wants to get back into the Indian team. ■ JIGNESH MISTRY

more power and strength. After pregnancy, I lack power. If I improve on my fitness and strengthening, things will get better," said Shamini.

She said the use of plastic balls have made her task tougher. Rallies have grown because of plastic balls. Hence there is a need to have more power and strength to engage in rallies.

The 30-year-old, a Commonwealth Games medalist, wants to improve on her performance and get into the Indian team.

"I was very happy [for the team], but as a professional I

## Pranjala clinches title

It is her second singles crown

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU  
LAGOS (NIGERIA)

Sixth seed Y. Pranjala defeated 144th ranked top seed Conny Perrin of Switzerland 2-6, 7-5, 6-0 in the final of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament here on Saturday.

It was the second singles title for the 19-year-old Pranjala, who has won two \$25,000 doubles crowns with Rutuja Bhosale this season. She has six doubles titles overall.

After a tough start, Pranjala turned the match around despite trailing 0-40 on her serve at 5-5 in the second set.

She then won nine of the

10 points to clinch the set. In the decider, Pranjala faced a breakpoint in the fifth game, but conceded only eight points in all to the 27-year-old Swiss.

Jeevan in doubles final

In the Challenger in Mexico, Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, in partnership with Marcelo Arevalo of Mexico, made the doubles final.

**The results: \$150,000 Challenger men, Monterrey, Mexico:**

**Doubles (semifinals):** Marcelo Arevalo (Mex) & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Andre Bege-mann (Ger) & Filip Polasek (Svk) 6-3, 7-6(9).

**\$25,000 ITF women, Lagos, Nigeria:**

**Final:** Y. Pranjala bt Conny Perrin (Sui) 2-6, 7-5, 6-0.



Hard work pays off: Y. Pranjala turned the match around after a tough start. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## India beats Malaysia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JOHOR BAHRU

The Indian junior men's hockey team started its campaign at the eighth Sultan of Johor Cup with a hard fought 2-1 win over host Malaysia here Saturday.

Harmanjit Singh (12th minute) and Shilanand Lakra (46th) were the goal scorers for India while Muhammad Zaidi (47th) pulled a goal back for Malaysia.

It was intense encounter as both the teams vied for possession, but neither could stitch together a string of passes.

India will now face New Zealand in its second match on Sunday.

## Tata Motors joins PKL bandwagon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Tata Motors announced a three-year partnership with the ProKabaddi League (PKL) as associate sponsor, starting from the current season and will also support UP Yoddha team as the principal sponsor for the second consecutive year. The company will be introducing two new awards, the 'best defender' after each game and 'best defender of the season', both named after Tata Ace.

SUDOKU

9				2			4
	6						1
	2	6	5				
					5	2	8
	7				1		
	5	3	8				
				4	1	8	
8						6	
1			9				7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	6	4	7	1	9	2	8	3
3	7	9	2	8	4	5	6	1
1	2	8	6	3	5	4	9	7
8	3	7	5	2	1	6	4	9
4	1	5	9	6	8	7	3	2
6	9	2	4	7	3	8	1	5
2	5	3	1	4	6	9	7	8
7	4	1	8	9	2	3	5	6
9	8	6	3	5	7	1	2	4

## Be Sure may make amends

**HYDERABAD:** Be Sure, a failed favourite, may make amends in the Army Cup (1,800m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Sunday (Oct. 7). There will be no false rails.

**1. SHAMSHABAD PLATE** (Div. I), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over (which have not won a race since July 1, 2018), rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 1-30 p.m.: 1. Air Salute (2) Md. Ismail 62, 2. Soaring Sensex (4) Gaddam 62, 3. Moka (6) C. Umesh 61.5, 4. One One One (7) Akshay Kumar 60.5, 5. Victoria (8) Kuldeep Singh 60.5, 6. Maahismathi (5) Ajit Singh 59.5, 7. Negress Dolly (9) Deepak Singh 59.5, 8. New Hope (3) Kiran Naidu 58.5, 9. Abracos (1) G. Nareesh 57.5 and 10. Golden Aliza (10) N. Rawal 54.5.

**1. ONE ONE ONE, 2. MOKA, 3. VICTORIA.**

**2. RED SURPRISE PLATE** (1,200m), 4-y-o & over (which have not won a race since July 1, 2018), rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 2-00: 1. Lord Gift (1) R. Ajay Kumar 60, 2. Escobar (3) Rohit Kumar 58.5, 3. Golden Image (6) A. A. Vikrant 57, 4. New State (5) Akshay Kumar 56, 5. Proud N Arrogant (8) Sai Kumar 53, 6. Rose Petal (2) G. Nareesh 53, 7. Platinum Classy (4) C. P. Bopanna 52.5 and 8. Take A Bow (7) Nakhat Singh 52.5.

**1. NEW STATE, 2. LORD GIFT, 3. ESCOBAR.**

**3. SHAMSHABAD PLATE** (Div. III), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over (which have not won a race since July 1, 2018), rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 2-30: 1. Red Striker (1) Ajit Singh 62, 2. Invasion (9) Akshay Kumar 61.5, 3. Escalating Striker (6) G. Nareesh 60.5, 4. Running Fire (8) R. Ajay Kumar 60.5, 5. Country's Gift (7) N. Rawal 60, 6. Noble Profession (2)

Rafique Sk. 60, 7. Parizaat (5) Deepak Singh 59, 8. All That Jazz (4) C. Umesh 57.5, 9. Delmonico (3) Sai Kumar 57 and 10. Touch Of Gold (10) Ajeet Kumar 50.

**1. RED STRIKER, 2. INVATION, 3. ESCALATING STRIKER.**

**4. K. SRINIVAS REDDY MEMORIAL CUP** (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II), 3-00: 1. Meritocracy (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 2. Titus (8) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Ashwa Bahula (6) Ashhad Asbar 56.5, 4. Ikigai (5) N. Rawal 56.5, 5. Avantika (1) Ajeet Kumar 55.5, 6. Sketch Of Beauty (3) Ajit Singh 55.5, 7. Mozambique (4) Gopal Singh 54.5 and 8. Ashka Ashka (7) P. Ajeeth Kumar 52.5.

**1. MOZAMBIQUE, 2. TITUS, 3. MERITOCRACY.**

**5. SHAMSHABAD PLATE** (Div. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over (which have not won a race since July 1, 2018), rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 3-30: 1. Reach The Heights (5) Koushik 62, 2. Fabulous Art (7) Md. Ismail 61.5, 3. Stormy (4) Akshay Kumar 61, 4. Royal Faith (9) Ajit Kumar 60.5, 5. Aarohi (2) R. Ajay Kumar 60, 6. Mountain Of Light (6) A. Vikrant 60, 7. Bahagar (10) Sai Kumar 59.5, 8. Mistique (3) Kiran Naidu 57.5, 9. Ultimate Risk (1) C. Umesh 56 and 10. Red Bullet (8) Nakhat Singh 54.5.

**1. STORMY, 2. REACH THE HEIGHTS, 3. RED BULLET.**

**6. ARMY CUP** (1,800m), 4-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II), 4-00: 1. Dahlois (5) Koushik 60, 2. Kalinda (6) Rohit Kumar 60, 3. On The Fire (12) A. Ajay Kumar 58.5, 4. Be Sure (4) Nakhat Singh 57, 5. Juneira Express (8) Ajit Singh 55.5, 6. On My Way (3) Tanwar 55.5, 7. Somerset (7) C. Umesh 55.5, 8. Ta

Ta (10) Harinder Singh 55, 9. Rutilant (2) Ashhad Asbar 54, 10. Mahathi (11) G. Nareesh 53.5, 11. Sunday Carnival (9) Md. Ismail 53.5 and 12. Exclusive Symbol (1) Deep Shanker 53.

**1. BE SURE, 2. DAHLOIS, 3. KALINDA.**

**7. SURYAPET PLATE** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (whips are not permitted in this race), rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 4-30: 1. Shakesphere (3) Koushik 60, 2. Thundering (7) P. P. Dheba 59.5, 3. Tokyo Jam (8) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 4. Promiseofhappiness (6) A.M. To-grallu 58, 5. Max (2) C. Umesh 57.5, 6. Story Teller (4) C. P. Bopanna 57, 7. Doubly Sure (1) Kiran Naidu 56.5, 8. Bombastic (5) Ashhad Asbar 56, 9. Palsy Walsy (10) Deepak Singh 56 and 10. Secretary (9) G. Nareesh 56.

**1. PROMISEOFHAPPINESS, 2. TOKYO JAM, 3. MAX.**

**8. ADILABAD PLATE** (1,400m), 3-y-o & over placed 2nd & 3rd since November 1, 2017 are not eligible), rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 5-05: 1. Right On Top (3) Nakhat Singh 60, 2. Artistic Tribute (11) Sai Kumar 59.5, 3. Joy Of Giving (13) Md. Ismail 59, 4. Pure Power (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59, 5. Adoria (5) P. P. Dheba 58.5, 6. Diesis Dream (8) R. Ajay Kumar 58, 7. Turf Conqueror (10) Ajit Singh 58, 8. Sunflower (7) Tanwar 57.5, 9. Cannon Gift (6) N. Rawal 57, 10. Vallee Ikon (1) Rohit Kumar 57, 11. Admant And Rising (2) G. Nareesh 56.5, 12. Madonna (12) C. Umesh 56 and 13. Heritage (4) Rafique Sk. 54.5.

**1. SUN FLOWER, 2. JOY OF GIVING, 3. RIGHT ON TOP.**

**Day's best: MOZAMBIQUE.** Double: NEW STATE - BE SURE. Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 3, 4 & 5; (iii): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: all races.

## Thalaivas look for victorious start

The team had lost a lot of close matches last season

PKL-6

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN  
CHENNAI

The ProKabaddi League (PKL) has got to be the only league that has single-handedly raised a sport's profile. For one, it has helped the sport attract unprecedented TV viewership and in-stadium audience. Then, it has bred cultures - of having a cricket-like team of support staff and using analysts to perform better.

Also, it introduced the review system that seems essential in kabaddi. In a match where the teams quickly raid alternately for 40 minutes, error in judgement costs dearly.

There are a lot of close matches, and even the losing team gets a point (in the league stage) if it loses by a margin of seven points or less.

Tamil Thalaivas was one team that lost a lot of close matches last season. The



Ready for it: Tamil Thalaivas, with some new players, will hope to do better this time. ■ FILE PHOTO: K. PICHUMANI

team finished last in its zone and now approaches this season with some new players and coach.

"The team lacked experience last time. It largely had young players.

"This time we believe we have a balance," said Thalaivas coach E. Bhaskaran at the trophy unveiling on Friday.

Numbers (highest team and individual scores and other such) suggest the overall playing standard has bettered with seasons. One

team that has highly contributed to it is the defending and three-time champion Patna Pirates.

Led by prodigy Pardeep Narwal (21), it will look to meet expectations, facing Tamil Thalaivas in the inaugural match of the opening leg in Chennai here on Sunday. As for Thalaivas, it will also hope for a winning start.

**Sunday's matches:** Tamil Thalaivas vs Patna Pirates; Puneri Paltan vs U Mumbai.



# BFC will look to improve on opening game performance

Cahill set to be centre of attention; defence still Jamshedpur’s watchword

ISL-5  
SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA  
BENGALURU

Tim Cahill may no longer be the force he once was but he will still be the centre of attention when he takes the field in the ISL for the first time on Sunday.

The 38-year-old was unavailable for Jamshedpur FC’s opening fixture, due to a suspension carried over from his time in England, but he is expected to come on against Bengaluru FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here.

Cahill managed only 63 minutes in total for Millwall last season and at the World Cup was only used by Australia as a substitute in the final group game. Cesar Ferrando, Jamshedpur’s head coach, admitted that the former Everton star had to work on his fitness.

“He has to improve (physically). He’s not (fully) fit. I think he can play one hour or 70 minutes. That is enough for us,” he said.



Star attraction: While Jamshedpur FC’s Tim Cahill is not fully match-fit, he is expected to feature against BFC on Sunday.

■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Cahill’s involvement will only add to the anticipation around what is set to be an engaging clash between two Spanish coaches.

Carles Cuadrat, whose BFC side won its opening game against Chennaiyin FC, was wary of Jamshedpur’s

threat from set pieces.

“I saw some kind of stress in some of our players (against CFC). Most of our mistakes were unforced errors – unnecessary faults in dangerous situations, conceding set pieces. We have had a week to work on that.

We know Cahill and Tiri are good in the air,” he said.

Cuadrat will be relieved to have begun with a win, even if Chennaiyin’s profligacy in front of goal had much to do with it. Jamshedpur, which started off with a 2-0 victory in Mumbai, will pose a diffe-

rent challenge.

Last season, under Steve Coppell, the side was guilty of playing some dreary football, boasting the second-best defensive record in the league but also holding the second-worst scoring record. That should change under Ferrando, a former Atletico Madrid manager, even if he maintained on Saturday that defence took priority.

“The best teams in the world concede very few goals,” he said. “If you defend very well, you can attack better.”

The visiting side will be without the services of the injured Dhanachandra Singh and the suspended Subrata Paul while BFC will wait to make a final call on Dimas Delgado as he recovers from a groin injury.

Last season, Jamshedpur and Chennaiyin were the only two teams to taste victory at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium. BFC has overcome one of those opponents already; it will hope to condemn the other to the same fate.

# Irfan Pathan continues to hum

Is happy being mentor-cum-player for Jammu & Kashmir

S. DINAKAR  
CHENNAI

A brief encounter with old friend and new-ball partner L. Balaji at Chepauk gladdened Irfan Pathan’s heart.

Here in the city with the Jammu & Kashmir team for the Vijay Hazare one-day competition, Irfan told *The Hindu*, “Bala has always been close to me.”

The two not just shared the new ball with telling effect for India during the epoch-making tour of Pakistan in 2004 but got along famously off the pitch as well.

Irfan would sing old Hindi numbers for Bala. “He loved songs from Mohammed Rafi and Kishore Kumar.”

And on the field, the left-right pair swung the ball from different angles, denting Pakistan’s batting and making the sort of music that the Indian camp grooved to.

“What a tour, India won both the Test and the one-day series in Pakistan for the first time. Can’t forget,” said the 33-year-old Irfan.

That tour broke barriers, created bonds. The message travelled beyond cricket.

When in mood, Irfan continues to sing. These days



Mellifluous: Irfan Pathan’s singing of Hindi film numbers has fascinated L. Balaji.

■ FILE PHOTO

you can find him humming, ‘Jeena, Jeena,’ sung by Atif Aslam in movie Badlapur.

And he has picked up one of Balaji’s habits – watching movies. “Not only I watch movies but often force my wife, Safa, not so keen about films, to join me. Recently, I liked the sequel to Blade Runner.”

Then, his 21-month-old son Imran Khan keeps Irfan busy. “He keeps learning new things. There is a milestone for us every week. Becoming a father changes you,” he said. Irfan revealed, “Imran Khan was the name of our eldest brother who passed away when he was just three. I have named my son in his memory.”

Of course, he is extremely close to his elder brother Yusuf. “He hits the ball like a demon but has the heart of gold.”

After a year’s break from playing cricket – he did commentary in between – Irfan is back as a mentor-cum-player for Jammu & Kashmir.

The all-rounder with 1105 runs and 100 wickets in 29 Tests said, “You seek new challenges in life and I moved from Baroda to J & K. The abundance of talent there has to be harnessed. Personally, I am able to swing the ball back and win leg-before decisions, provide early breakthroughs.”

Even as he enjoys his new role, Irfan continues to hum.

# Kaushal hits first double in Hazare Trophy

SPORTS BUREAU  
NADIAD

Uttarakhand opener Karn Veer Kaushal entered the record books, scoring the first double century in the Hazare Trophy, smashing 202 off 135 balls, to star in his team’s 199-run rout of Sikkim in a Plate group match here on Saturday.

**The scores:**  
**Elite:** At Bengaluru: Group A: Karnataka 257 for eight (R. Samarth 98, Manish Pandey 43, Aniruddha Joshi 42, Rishi Dhawan three for 57) bt Himachal 162 in 25.3 overs (Prashant Chopra 67, T. Pradeep four for 35, K. Gowtham four for 26). Karnataka won by 35 runs on VJD method.

Railways 226 for eight in 50 overs (Saurabh Waskar 57, Manish Rao 30, Avinash Yadav 33 n.o., Madhur Khatri 58, Darshan Nalkande three for 42) lost to Vidarbha 176 for three in 37 overs (Akshay Kolhar 41, Ganesh Satish 53 n.o., Akshay Wadkar 49 n.o.). Vidarbha won by 15 runs on VJD method.

Mumbai vs Maharashtra - match abandoned owing to rain.

**At New Delhi:** Group B: Saurashtra 110 in 34.4 overs (Arpit Vasavada 34, Sumit Ruikar six for 26) lost to Chhattisgarh 111 for one in 24.2 overs (Rishabh Tiwari 56 n.o.,

Manoj Singh 36 n.o.). Uttar Pradesh 330 for four in 50 overs (Akshdeep Nath 119 n.o., Samarth Singh 115 n.o., Suresh Raina 52) lost to Andhra 331 for nine in 49.3 overs (D.B. Ravi Teja 79 n.o., Ashwin Hebbur 64, K. Sumanth 43, Karn Sharma 43, Akshdeep Nath three for 44).

Odisha 247 for eight in 50 overs (Govinda Poddar 93, Subhransu Senapati 41, Abhishek Raut 34, Biplab Samantary 31, C.V. Milind six for 43) lost to Hyderabad 250 for nine in 49.2 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 76, Akshath Reddy 63, K. Sumanth 43 n.o., Pappu Roy three for 38).

**Plate:** At Anand: Mizoram 100 in 42.3 overs (Tarumar Kohli 33, Inakato Zhimomi three for eight, Imilwati Lemtur three for 24) lost to Nagaland 102 for two in 12.5 overs (Nitesh Lochab 49 n.o.).

**At Nadiad:** Uttarakhand 366 for two in 50 overs (Karn Veer Kaushal 202, Vineet Saxena 100) bt Sikkim 167 for six in 50 overs (Lee Yong Lepcha 65, Padam Limboo 51 n.o., Deepak Dhapola three for 19).

**At Vadodara:** Meghalaya 238 for five in 50 overs (Yogesh Nagar 67 n.o., Puneet Bisht 58, Jiten-der three for 29) bt Manipur 170 in 45.4 overs (Yashpal Singh 106 n.o., Lakan Singh three for 24).

# WELCOME

## TO THE LAND OF PROGRESS

### UTTARAKHAND INVESTORS SUMMIT DEHRADUN

7-8<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT**  
CHIEF MINISTER, UTTARAKHAND

**NARENDRA MODI**  
PRIME MINISTER

## INAUGURATION BY PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

**INAUGURATION CEREMONY:** 7th October, 2018 | Time: 10:30 AM Onwards | VENUE: International Cricket Stadium, Dehradun

10 NEW POLICIES	PROGRAMME
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Uttarakhand Electric Vehicle Manufacturing, E.V. Usage Promotion and Related Services Infrastructure Policy -2018</li><li>Uttarakhand Aroma Policy -2018</li><li>Uttarakhand Tourism Policy -2018</li><li>Large Industrial Investment &amp; Employment Promotion Policy -2018</li><li>IT Policy -2018</li><li>Uttarakhand AYUSH Policy -2018</li><li>Amended Solar Energy Policy -2018</li><li>Biotechnology Policy -2018</li><li>‘Right of Way’ Policy -2018</li><li>Power Generation from Pine needles and other types of Biomass Policy -2018</li></ol>	<div><div><h3>DAY 1 SUNDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2018</h3><h4>SECTORAL SESSIONS</h4><p>Manufacturing, Tourism &amp; Hospitality, Infrastructure, Film Shooting &amp; Entertainment and IT / ITes / Biotechnology</p><h4>COUNTRY SESSIONS</h4><p>Czech Republic, Japan</p><p>Ganga Aarti at Rishikesh</p></div><div><div><h3>DAY 2 MONDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2018</h3><h4>SECTORAL SESSIONS</h4><p>Agriculture &amp; Horticulture, Healthcare &amp; Wellness, MSME, Start-ups and Education &amp; Skills Development</p></div></div></div>

### UTTARAKHAND | POLICIES & INCENTIVES

MSME Policy | Mega Industrial & Investment Policy | Film Policy | Land Leasing Policy for Agriculture | Start-up Policy | Mega Textile Policy

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Last coach to leave by 08:45 am	07.15 am	Jolly Grant Airport	International Cricket Stadium, Raipur, Dehradun
	07.30 am	Sarovar Portico, Haridwar Bypass – Hotel Solitaire – Hotel JSR Continental Hotel Madhuban, Rajpur Road – Hotel Four Points – Hotel Lemon Tree Ramada Hotel, Chakrata Road – Hotel Pacific	

पत्रांक: 5803 / शुभएनएलओएनओ(विज्ञा.) / दिनांक 05.10.2018

A ND-NDE

# Dibaba for Delhi Half Marathon

SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Legendary Ethiopian distance runner Tirunesh Dibaba will be part of the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon on October 21. She has won three Olympic gold medals and five World titles on the track as well as four World cross country championships as a senior. She is also the current 5000m World record holder.

Dibaba, who finished third at last month’s Berlin Marathon, said, “After Berlin, I felt I could still run fast over the half marathon despite the short recovery time.

“I didn’t achieve my aims completely in



Tirunesh Dibaba.

■ REUTERS

Berlin, although I certainly have to be pleased with my performance, because I went there to win and run faster than my time of 2:18:55.

“So there is no better race than the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon to make my return to racing. I am excited about coming to India and I look forward to make my presence felt.”



# Vishwakarma takes title

Mahak retains the women's crown with an easy win over Natasha

## NATIONAL TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

It was a gutsy fare from wily left-hander Siddharth Vishwakarma, but it was a broken gut that possibly cost the national title yet again for Arjun Kadhe, as the Fenesta National tennis championship rose to a heady climax at the DLTA Complex on Saturday.

While the 17-year-old Mahak Jain retained the women's title with a fluent 6-1, 6-2 victory over Natasha Palha, Vishwakarma fought tooth and nail to be crowned the national champion as he beat top seed Arjun Kadhe 6-2, 6-7(2), 6-3.

### Stepping it up

Despite having hardly played any tennis in the last eight months owing to ill-health, Vishwakarma stepped it up in the decider after overcoming a bout of cramps midway through the final.

He was saved a breakpoint in the ninth game, when Kadhe broke his string. He continued rallying at the net with all the craft he could



**Champions:** Siddharth Vishwakarma and Mahak Jain emerged victorious in contrasting fashion. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

muster, but Vishwakarma closed out the match in style with an ace. "I didn't rush when Arjun broke the string. It was a lucky point for me," Vishwakarma said.

As he has been whipping the serves and the forehand

viciously Vishwakarma said he was having "pain in the shoulder and elbow".

Meanwhile, Mahak ran up a 5-0 lead early on and stroked with conviction into the corners to exasperate Natasha, who was tentative

for the most part, and failed to unleash her best game.

"Mahak was composed and played well. Last year, I was worried every round. This year, she really played smooth including the semifinal against Prerna Bhambri. I was relaxed this time," said coach Sajid Lodi.

The men's and women's champions were presented ₹3 lakh each and the runners-up ₹2 lakh.

Former India hockey captain Sardar Singh was the chief guest and presented the prizes, along with the chairman of DCM Shriram Group, Ajay Shriram, and a few officials of the AITA.

In the junior section, Siddhant Banthia and Humera Shaik won the boys' and girls' titles, beating Calvin Golmei and B. Rashmika Shrivalli.

### The results (finals):

**Men:** Siddharth Vishwakarma bt Arjun Kadhe 6-2, 6-7(2), 6-3.

**Women:** Mahak Jain bt Natasha Palha 6-1, 6-2.

**U-18: Boys:** Siddhant Banthia bt Calvin Golmei 7-6(0), 6-2.

**Girls:** Humera Shaik bt Rashmika Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 6-2, 6-4.

# Humera takes a step back, hoping to leap



Humera. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

In the fast-moving world, it is always a rush forward. Few manage to stop, take a calculated step backward, possibly preparing for a leap.

From the land of the Nizams, Hyderabad, more famous for tennis champion Sania Mirza, and Uzma Khan before her, the tall and strong Humera Shaik aspires to make a big impact in the world of women's tennis.

Despite being seeded No.5 in the women's event for the National championship, the 17-year-old opted to compete

in the under-18 event, possibly to draw attention as the national junior champion and get suitable support to power her tennis career.

### Tough start

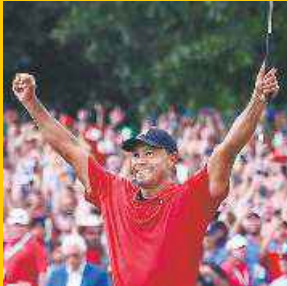
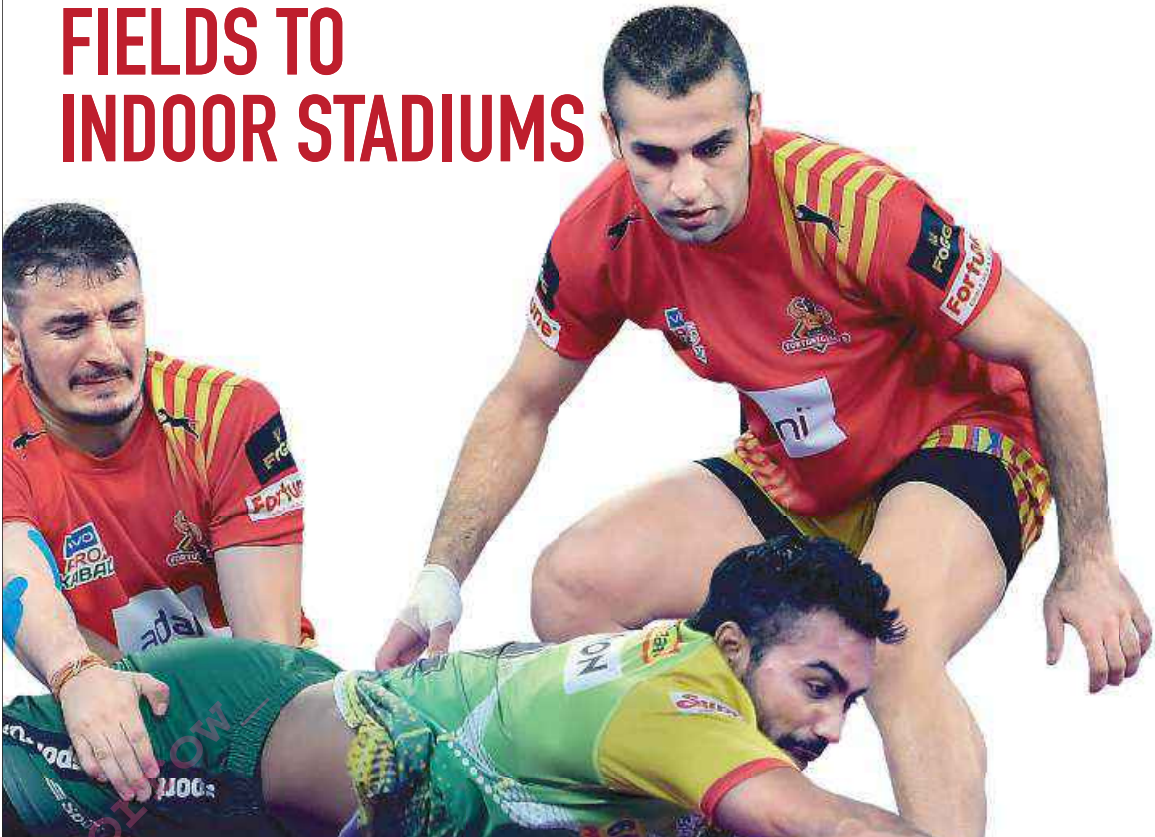
In the juniors, it was a tough start as Humera had to play a tie-break to beat Lakshanya Viswanath 9-8(5) in the second qualifying round after a bye in the first. She qualified comfortably.

Humera dropped only 15 games in winning four rounds in a draw of 64, after a bye, apart from being pushed to three sets by Mus-

kan Gupta. "I had stopped playing the juniors. In the Adidas National juniors in Chennai, I was runner-up to Sharannya Gaware. So, we thought why not try to win the title here," said Humera, who had won the singles and doubles titles in the ITF grade-4 junior event in Chennai in August last year.

"I have been playing only the women's tournaments in India. I have won 11 titles. I need to compete internationally and need the financial support," said Humera who is guided by her father, Mohammed Bin Yousuf.

# KABADDI: FROM MUDDY FIELDS TO INDOOR STADIUMS



Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri on Tiger Woods' game-changing impact on the sport.



Fan now get a say in who gets elected to the Tennis Hall of Fame. But Paul Fein raises some critical questions.

# SPORTSTAR

Poster: Shikhar Dhawan  
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On Asia trip, Pompeo eyes progress in second Trump-Kim summit

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Despite claims, debt funds are not completely risk-free

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Play your cards well now to cash in when the markets revive

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Humanoids can be key to integrating machines into human lives

page 12



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### Eurasian otter found in the Western Ghats

KOCHI Wildlife experts have confirmed the presence of the Eurasian otter, one of the least-known of India's three otter species, in the Western Ghats. Ironically, the confirmation came after researchers did a genetic analysis on a roadkill in a rainforest in Tamil Nadu's Valparai.

NEWS • PAGE 2

### Race for Essar Steel to become fiercer

MUMBAI The race for Essar Steel is set for a fresh twist, with the Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel indicating that it may throw its hat in the ring as an individual bidder. This comes even as the existing bidders — ArcelorMittal and Numetal — are not worried by the Supreme Court's judgement asking them to clear the dues of Indian lenders in two weeks.

BUSINESS • PAGE 10

### Shehbaz Sharif jailed for 10 days

LAHORE Pakistani Opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif was ordered jailed on Saturday for 10 days after being arrested in a corruption case, his lawyer said. He will not be able to campaign for his party ahead of the crucial byelections next week. Mr. Sharif is the younger brother of the ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

WORLD • PAGE 3

### Greenlight comment adds to Tesla losses

REUTERS Shares of Tesla Inc. fell 7% on Friday, as David Einhorn's hedge fund Greenlight Capital slammed the electric carmaker the day after Tesla CEO Elon Musk called the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as the "Shortseller Enrichment Commission."

BUSINESS • PAGE 10

## Constable who backed Vivek Tiwari's killer quits

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL LUCKNOW Sarvesh Chaudhary, a constable in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh, who was suspended for posting a video criticising people opposing his juniors allegedly involved in the death of Apple executive Vivek Tiwari, has

stepped down from his post. In a letter, Mr. Chaudhary said he was willingly resigning as he was not able to adapt himself to the system. In the video posted on Facebook on Thursday, Mr. Chaudhary sympathised with Tiwari's family, but said people need to stop calling

policemen "goons" or "murderers." He also attacked the media and politicians for not supporting policemen. "If it does not stop, our silence may result in serious consequences." After the video surfaced, Mr. Chaudhary was suspended for indiscipline.

On October 2, Tiwari's post-mortem report revealed that he died of a gunshot injury to the chin. During the preliminary investigation, the constable who allegedly shot him claimed that he fired at his self-defence as it tried to run over his motorbike.

## Reaching out to the Goddess from the margins

Faced with discrimination, sex workers of Sonagachi are set to host an all-woman Durga Puja of their own

SOUMYA DAS KOLKATA

Even as Durga Puja pandals across Bengal and particularly those in Kolkata are obsessed with the idea of a 'theme' that dictates every aspect of the idols and decorations, a routinely marginalised group of devotees has decided to return to tradition.

The sex workers of Sonagachi, the country's largest redlight district have decided that every aspect of their very own puja pandal will adhere to tradition — from designing the canopy of the goddess and the idols to the rituals over the six-day festival.

Spurred by the rejection they face when they visit pujas across the city, the Durga puja at Sonagachi will



Their pandal will adhere to tradition, from the canopy of the goddess and the idols to the rituals. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

be conducted and managed entirely by the women. Not just the seven members of the Durbar Mahila Durgotsav Committee but the priest and the craftsman making the idol are also women.

"Whenever I visit other Durga Pujas, the organisers

and locals make it clear that I am not welcome because I am a sex worker," Mamata Maity, a member of the puja committee told *The Hindu*.

Sitting in the small office of the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, a prominent organisation of the sex workers, Ms. Maity

said, "We were always made to feel that it was not our Durga Puja and we should stay away from the festivities," she said.

**Transgenders too** The initiative to accord centre stage to these marginalised women has gone a step further to include transgenders. The poster for the inaugural ceremony of the puja features Shintu Baghui, a transgender, in front of unpainted statues of the goddess and her 'holy' family.

Before being involved with the Durga Puja at Sonagachi, Shintu had stayed away from puja pandals for the last five years. "Not only do we (transgenders) face taunts

and jeers but are often abused in filthy language. It was better to stay home," recalled Shintu, the child of a sex worker.

She is hopeful that the poster will play a key role in not only promoting the Durga Puja but also raise public acceptance of transgenders.

Kanchi Paul, the artist making the Durga idol for the Sonagachi puja said the latest project was of "special interest" to her. "I have never come across such puja in my 15-year career," she said.

Highlighting the idea of inclusion with the slogan "Durga Puja for all" on their poster, the organisers have reached out to the Goddess herself, saying, "You and us are all women."

## Facebook setting up task force for 2019 poll

To prevent misuse of the platform for influencing voters

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA NEW DELHI

With just eight months left for the 2019 general elections in India, social networking giant Facebook is putting together "a task force" of specialists to defend against the misuse of its platform for influencing the voting process in any way. "India is top of our mind... biggest democracy in the world, we are going to have biggest elections. So, we will have a task force working on that... and we try to understand what the possible forms of abuse [of the platform] might be in India versus in the U.K. or any other country," Richard Allan, vice-president, Public Policy EMEA, Facebook, said.

**'Network of hundreds'** The task force will comprise of "network of hundreds of people", including specialists who will monitor advertising to make sure that ads are appropriate, and specialists to constantly look at the content. The company will also work with local political parties to understand what they are doing. "What the task force is trying to do is make sure that we don't miss things because we...missed things in



Ads will be monitored to ensure they are appropriate, says Richard Allan.

the run up to the U.S. elections, there were things happening on the surface that should not have been happening... So it's really about making sure that, in the Indian context in particular, we will not miss things," Mr Allan added.

The social media platform has been facing fire for improper use of its data to influence elections in its home country, the United States, following which, Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg, earlier this year, had announced putting in place a new policy to prevent interference in future elections. These steps, he added, "will make it a lot harder for anyone to do what the Russians did during the 2016 [U.S.] election and use fake

accounts and pages to run ads." Post the controversy, India's IT as well as Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had also warned of stringent legal action if Facebook data of Indian users was found being misused to influence the electoral process. Facebook had said that the data of nearly 5.6 lakh Indian users may have been "improperly" shared with British political analytics company Cambridge Analytica.

**Real or propaganda?** Mr. Allan pointed out that one of the challenges for the task force in India will be to distinguish between real political news and political propaganda. To a query, he said the team will be a mix of human resources existing within the company working on the issue, as well as new hires. "The work will actually be done once we move closer to the election," Mr. Allan said, adding, "We are building up a team here to spot what is going on and ...if we need to change our systems to catch more of the particular type of speech then there will be AI engineers working on that, specifically for what is happening here."

## A faith healing centre turns focal point for communal tensions

In Uttar Pradesh, a stand-off has resulted after an upper caste outfit complained against gatherings at a church claiming to cure ailments

OMAR RASHID JAUNPUR

A lone policeman stands guard at the Jeevan Jyoti Sat-sang Prathna Kendra in Bulandih village in Jaunpur, eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Christian prayer centre is deserted and the mood in the village is tense.

Till a few weeks ago, especially on Tuesdays and Sundays, the sprawling compound of the Kendra bustled with visitors and devotees who came from nearby villages as well as from Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Mau and Varanasi districts of Purvanchal to listen to sermons and receive what they believed was 'divine healing.'

At the centre of it all was Pastor Durga Prasad Yadav, who ran the prayer centre

on his family property, and claimed to cure all manner of illnesses, including cancer, epilepsy and TB, through prayers and touch.

### Complaint filed

However, following a complaint last month from Sarvesh Singh, secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Kshatriya Mahasabha Yuva, police booked Mr. Yadav and over 270 others, including many of his associate pastors. They were charged with luring poor people to Christianity and spreading misinformation about Hindu religion, among other things.

While the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday issued an injunction on Mr. Yadav's arrest, prayers at the Kendra stand prohibited.

Mr. Yadav's nephew, Brijesh Yadav, dismissed allegations of conversion. He said people came on their own and attended its sessions because they had "developed faith." "It had nothing to do with conversion. We only preached teachings of Jesus," he insisted.

Photographs of Jesus Christ and the Holy Cross are visible on the Yadav property. Brijesh said though the family believes in the Ten Commandments and teachings of Jesus Christ, the members have not formally converted to Christianity. "We are still Hindus. We still celebrate all Hindu festivals and the Dussehra organised by my uncle was well-attended. So there is no question of converting people," he reiterated.



No gatherings: There are no crowds at the church in Jaunpur, where prayers have been stopped. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He then showed a bunch of identification cards and pointed out that the family still maintains its Hindu OBC name. The family also have a Bael tree (*Aegle marmelos* or Bengal quince) and a Tulsi plant in the compound, both

considered auspicious among Hindus.

### 'Drugs were given'

The charges against Mr. Yadav and others include administering drugs and other banned substances to peo-

ple under the garb of medicine, cheating, defiling a place of worship, criminal conspiracy, inducing people to believe they will attract divine displeasure and causing hurt by poison.

Mr. Singh, who is leading the campaign against the prayer centre, said Mr. Ya-

### SUNDAY SPECIAL

dav was instigating people, mostly OBCs and Dalits, against Hinduism.

The Kshatriya activist also claims that Mr. Yadav had propagated the use of "magical oil" and "magical water" to heal diseases. Kailash Yadav, Mr. Yadav's cousin, rejected the charge. "Magical oil and magical water are coined by the RSS and its affiliates. What happened is

that people came to the sessions with their own oil and water, which would be blessed during the prayers. They would take back home the same as they believed in its healing powers," said Mr. Kailash.

The family's association with Christianity is fairly recent and follows Mr. Yadav's experience in Mumbai where he was allegedly cured of a skin condition by a self-proclaimed healer, Sebastian Martin. He started his own prayer services and held his first service or *chan-gai prathna* in Bulandih in 2010. On the shutting down of the prayer centre, Manoj Jacob, U.P. president of Rashtriya Isai Mahasangh, charged that RSS-linked outfits were spreading false propaganda of conversion.

## 21 killed as bus falls into gorge in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BANIHAL/JAMMU

Twenty-one persons were killed and 15 injured when an overcrowded mini-bus fell into a 200-foot-deep gorge on Saturday after its driver lost control over the vehicle on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district, officials said.

Among the dead were four women and the driver. Ten critically injured passengers were airlifted to the Army hospital at Udhampur and two others were taken to Jammu, the officials said.

The bus was on its way to Ramban from Banihal when the accident occurred around 9.55 a.m. It rolled down the gorge at Kela Morh near Maroo, Rafiq-ul-Hassan, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban range, told PTI.

The officials said 15 persons died on the spot, while six others succumbed to injuries at hospitals.

Governor Satya Pal Malik announced ₹5 lakh each in ex gratia to the families of the deceased and ₹50,000 each to the injured. Local volunteers launched a rescue operation soon after the accident and were joined by police and Army teams.

## Tomy reaches Visakhapatnam, placed under observation

The Naval officer was seriously injured during a sailing race

SUMIT BHATTACHARJEE VISAKHAPATNAM

Commander Abhilash Tomy who was rescued from his sailing vessel 'Thuriya' on September 24 after having suffered a serious injury during the Golden Globe race, was brought to Visakhapatnam on board the *INS Satpura* on Saturday.

He was shifted to the naval hospital in Visakhapatnam *INHS Kalyani* for further medical observation and treatment.

Cdr. Tomy was representing India in the historic around the world race, conducted without modern navigation aids.

On September 21, his sailing vessel 'Thuriya' was dismasted when it was caught in a violent storm in the



Vice-Admiral Karambir Singh interacting with Abhilash Tomy on Saturday. •THE NAVY

South Indian Ocean.

According to a naval officer who is also into yachting and sailing and is a friend of Cdr. Tomy, the southern Indian Ocean is rough in general and getting caught in a storm is the worst night-

mare for a sailor.

"Tomy is a tough guy and a good sailor; he exhibited true grit by braving the 'wall of waves' despite suffering a grave injury. He depicted true naval courage," said the officer.

As soon as the *INS Satpura* arrived at the ENC base in Visakhapatnam, Vice Admiral Karambir Singh FOC-in-C of ENC met Cdr Tomy, and enquired about his health and the rescue operation. Vice-Admiral Singh also met Capt Alok Ananda, Commanding Officer of *INS Satpura* who lost his father while the ship was on deployment and diverted for the search and rescue operation. He lauded the officer for holding the naval tradition of 'duty above self'.



IN BRIEF



**Odisha to help children of construction workers**  
BHUBANESWAR  
Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Nirman Kusuma' programme to help the children of construction workers get trained in Industrial Training Institutes and polytechnics. Under the scheme, an ITI student will get assistance of ₹23,600 a year and a diploma student will get ₹26,300. PTI

**20 suspected drug peddlers detained in J&K**  
DODA  
Twenty alleged drug peddlers were taken into preventive custody in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, the police said on Saturday. Most of them are residents of Doda, Thathri, Bhalla and Bhadarwah, Senior Superintendent of Police (Doda) Shabir Ahmad Malik said. He said they were involved in multiple cases. PTI

**Headmaster held for sexually abusing student**  
BHAWANIPATNA  
A Class 5 student was allegedly sexually abused by her school headmaster in Odisha's Kalahandi district, the police said on Saturday. The accused has been arrested. According to the complaint lodged by the girl's family, the headmaster called the 10-year-old girl to his room during lunch break on Friday and abused her. PTI

**Illegal arms unit busted in U.P., three arrested**  
MUZAFFARNAGAR  
Three people were arrested and an illegal arms manufacturing unit was busted at Khanpur village here, the Uttar Pradesh police said on Saturday. Eight pistols, 10 semi-finished pistols, two guns and 15 barrels were seized from the unit in Friday's raid, Senior Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar said. PTI



**Livelihood worries:** Artisans Rajeev and his brother Renjith surveying their flood-hit mirror-making unit at Aranmula in Pathanamthitta district. At right, a damaged handloom unit at Chendamangalam in Ernakulam. ■ LEJU KAMAL & THULASI KAKKAT.



## Restoring Kerala's cultural colours

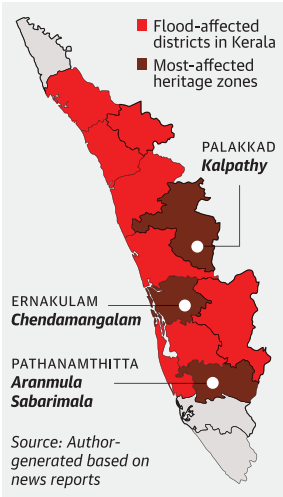
International team to arrive tomorrow, will come up with plans for restoration after the deluge

OOMMEN A. NINAN

The International Centre for the study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), an inter-governmental organisation with headquarters in Rome, would be salvaging the cultural wealth affected by the recent floods in Kerala. The work is expected to start from October 8.

International agencies will have discussions with the government of Kerala and also with Government of India on the rehabilitation and they are likely to involve the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank in their efforts.

As chief adviser to the government of Kerala for Museums, Dr. M. Velayudhan Nair has been trying to consolidate help from governmental and non-governmental agencies for immediate relief. Dr. Nair, who is also a trustee and council member of the International Institute of Conservation, held discussions with ICCROM in Italy in the first week of September to convince it to help with a disaster management plan for Kerala.



"I had discussions with Aparna Tandon, the head of the department dealing with disaster management in ICCROM and finalised immediate intervention jointly with ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)," said Dr. Nair.

**Short-term projects**  
The team will be arriving in Kerala on Monday and will be visiting the flood-affected site with ideas of short-term and long-term projects for salvage and also for rehabili-

tation of people like artisans who are sustaining heritage, both in the tangible and intangible forms, he added.

One of the worst-affected places is Aranmula, a heritage village in Pathanamthitta district. It is well known for its rich heritage in the areas of arts, culture, literature, agriculture, traditional practices, temple arts, sculpture,

and also for the world-famous metal mirror, popularly known as *Aranmula Kannadi*.

The know-how to make the mirror is limited only to certain families living in Aranmula, but the floods washed away their workshops, moulds, frames and stock of material as well as finished products.

The palliyodam, or snake boat shaped in the *anantha shayanam* pose of Lord Vishnu, is another important part of Aranmula's heritage. There are 52 such boats belonging to 52 villages around Aranmula; they are revered and worshipped by the people. Many of these boats were damaged beyond repair.

## NGO to build 6,000 homes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Habitat for Humanity India, an NGO, plans to build or repair 6,000 homes of those affected by the deluge in Kerala.

The initiative is being taken up by the NGO as part of the second edition of Jacqueline Builds – a unique campaign featuring Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez.

The second edition, to be held in December this year, would focus on rebuilding homes that were fully or partially damaged by the deluge, a press release said.

The campaign would have Jacqueline Fernandez visit-



Jacqueline Fernandez

ing a few flood-affected areas in Kerala. She would also urge her fans to come together to rebuild Kerala, the release added.

The Habitat for Humanity India is actively involved in

the relief operations in Kerala. In the first phase of the relief work, the organisation provided First Responders' Kit, a humanitarian aid kit and bottled drinking water to 93,889 families.

In the second and third phase, it would construct or repair homes for 6000 flood-affected families in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Wayanad districts and rehabilitate them.

The release quoting her said: "This is the time when the people in Kerala need our whole-hearted support to bring life back on track."

## Western Ghats is home to the Eurasian otter

Confirmation comes after 70 years

AATHIRA PERINCHERY  
KOCHI

You'd imagine that a mammal more than a metre long would be hard to miss. But it has taken more than 70 years to confirm the presence of the elusive Eurasian otter – one of the least-known of India's three otter species – in the Western Ghats. Ironically, researchers found the dead otter after a vehicle ran over it near a fragmented rainforest in Tamil Nadu's Valparai.

Researchers at Valparai's Nature Conservation Foundation came across the otter roadkill two years ago. Based on the dead animal's photographs (especially of its nose and tail), several small carnivore experts concluded it was neither the small-clawed nor the smooth-coated otter (the commonly sighted otter species in south India).

Later, scientists affiliated with the Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species at Hyderabad's Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology conducted genetic analyses of its tail tissue to confirm that it was indeed the Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*).

The team reported the finding in a bulletin of the IUCN Otter Specialist Group earlier this year.

Though the Eurasian otter has been recorded historically from the Western Ghats (Coorg in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu's Nilgiri and Palani hill ranges, according to zoologist R.I. Pocock in 1941), this is the first photographic and genetic confirmation of its presence here. While the species is wides-



The Eurasian otter, also called the common otter.

pread across Europe, northern Africa and several south Asian countries, it is not as frequently sighted as smooth-coated or small-clawed otters in India.

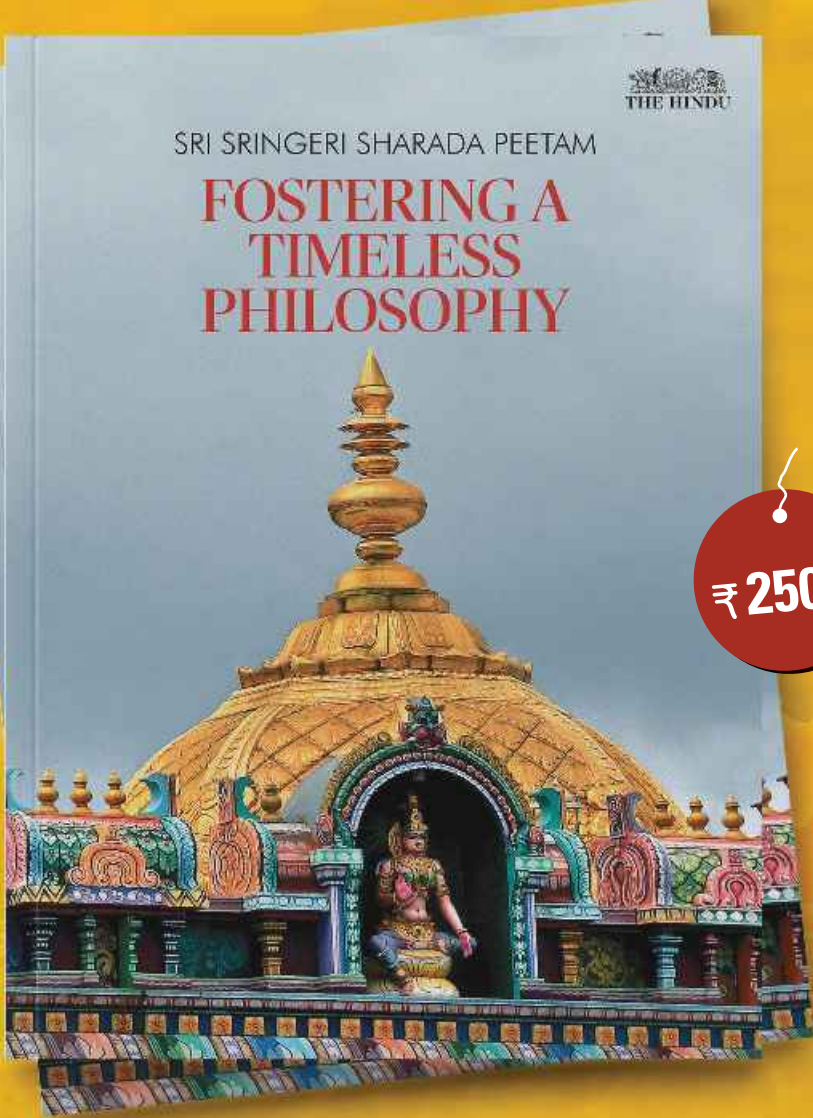
### 'Surveys a must'

Similar physical features make it very difficult to identify otter species in the wild, said wildlife biologist and small carnivore expert Ajith Kumar. "We still don't know where Eurasian otters occur in India," said Dr. Kumar, who is director of the Wildlife Conservation Society-National Centre for Biological Sciences' post-graduate programme in wildlife biology and conservation at Bengaluru.

"Detailed surveys and studies to ascertain this are the need of the hour," he said. This paucity of information doesn't help, with otters facing multiple threats. Otter roadkills – caused by increasing fragmentation of forests and modification of their original habitats – are becoming increasingly common now, said otter biologist Nisarg Prakash, who was part of the team that published the report. Though protected by the Wildlife Protection Act (1972), otters are often illegally poached for pelts.

# FOSTERING A TIMELESS PHILOSOPHY

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THE HINDU

on Sunday

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# THIS CONTEST COULD MAKE YOUR DAY

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Q. Who is the actor currently facing a blasphemy case in Dublin?

a) Colin Farrell b) Pierce Brosnan c) Liam Neeson d) Stephen Fry

Hint: Check out 'Despatches' page in section II of today's edition.



SMS your answer in the below format:  
**THOS<space>Name<space>Age<space>City<space>Area pincode<space>Option a, b, c or d to 080828 07690**

\*T&C apply.



ELSEWHERE



Jailed ex-Bangladesh PM admitted to hospital

**DHAKA**  
Jailed former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was admitted to hospital in Dhaka on Saturday, an official said, following a court order in response to her deteriorating health. She was taken from the abandoned 19th-century prison, where she is serving her sentence, to a clinic in the heart of the capital. AFP

Google CEO secretly met Pentagon leaders: report

**WASHINGTON**  
Google's chief executive Sundar Pichai quietly paid a visit to the Pentagon to ease tensions that erupted after employee outrage prompted the tech giant to sever a controversial defence contract to analyse drone video, *The Washington Post* reported on Friday. PTI

Six police officers dead in Burkina Faso blast

**OUAGADOUGOU**  
Six police officers were killed in an ambush with an improvised explosive device in the northern Burkina Faso town of Solle, security sources said on Saturday. "A police convoy was ambushed in Solle" late on Friday, a security source said. "The leading vehicle ran over a mine and six were killed." AFP

50 killed in oil tanker road crash in DR Congo

**KINSHASA**  
About 50 people died and 100 were burnt on Saturday after an oil tanker collided with a vehicle on an arterial highway in the west of DR Congo, the acting Governor of the region said. "We have about 50 dead and a 100 people have suffered second degree burns," said Atou Matabuana, according to the actualite.cd website. AFP

Shehbaz Sharif jailed for 10 days

His lawyer says the Opposition leader was improperly arrested on a warrant that was kept secret

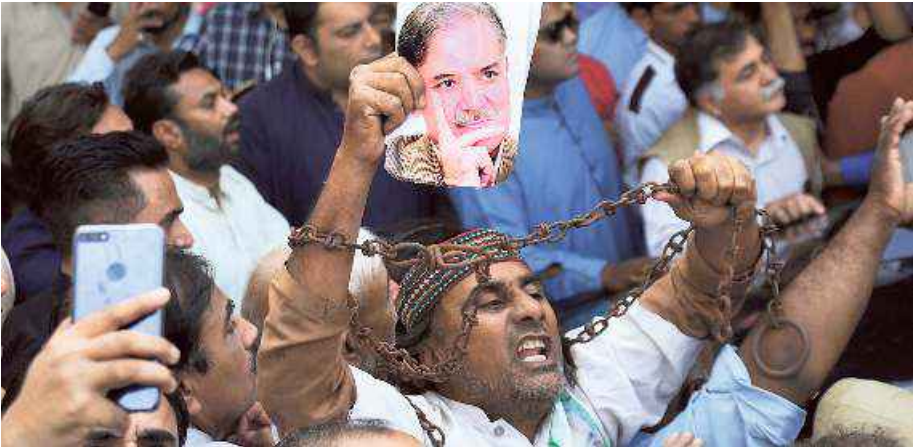
REUTERS  
LAHORE

Pakistani Opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif was ordered jailed on Saturday for 10 days after being arrested in a corruption case, his lawyer said, meaning he will not be able to campaign for his party ahead of crucial by-elections next week.

Mr. Sharif is the younger brother of ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was sentenced earlier this year to 10 years in prison by an anti-corruption court after the Supreme Court removed him from power.

Friday's arrest of Shehbaz Sharif by agents of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in Lahore involved a case of alleged corruption in a low-cost housing scheme when he was Chief Minister of the Punjab province.

An NAB court on Saturday heard charges that Mr. Sharif in 2014 illegally cancelled a



Mass protests: A supporter of Pakistani Opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif holding his picture during a demonstration outside a court in Lahore on Saturday. AP

contract with a construction company and sought to award it to another company, allegedly for a bribe. The court ordered him remanded in custody for 10 days to be interrogated, his lawyer Azam Nazir Tarar said.

Hundreds of activists from Mr. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz gathered outside the court, chanting pro-Sharif slogans as police and Army Rangers guarded the venue.

Mr. Sharif denies any wrongdoing, and his brother has denounced corruption cases against him and other party leaders as politically

motivated. Lawyer Tarar said Mr. Sharif was improperly arrested on a warrant that was kept secret. Mr. Sharif went to the court for questioning in another corruption case involving a water purification scheme but instead was arrested on the housing project warrant.

U.S. Senate poised to confirm Brett Kavanaugh

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Senate is expected to confirm conservative judge Brett Kavanaugh as the next Supreme Court Justice later on Saturday – offering President Donald Trump a big political win and tilting the nation's High Court decidedly to the right.

The months-long battle over Mr. Kavanaugh's nomination has gripped Washington, laying bare the partisan gridlock on Capitol Hill and the political polarisation of America just a month before mid-term elections.

The Senate vote, set to begin from 3:30 p.m. local time, will bring an end to a



Brett Kavanaugh

the court – a major coup for the Republican leader less than halfway through his term.

His promotion to the Supreme Court will also stand as a demoralising defeat for Democrats who battled hard to block the 53-year-old judge at all costs.

Mr. Kavanaugh's confirmation was all but sealed on Friday when he won the support of key Senate Republican Susan Collins and conservative Democrat Joe Manchin.

Their statements of support brought the number of senators supporting Mr. Kavanaugh to 51 in the 100-member chamber.

raucous nomination process defined by harrowing testimony from a woman who says Mr. Kavanaugh tried to rape her when they were teenagers – and his fiery rebuttal.

If Mr. Kavanaugh is confirmed, President Trump will have succeeded in having his two picks seated on

£1 mn Banksy artwork shreds itself

'Girl with Balloon' passes through a hidden shredder moments after auction

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

British street artist Banksy has stunned the art world with arguably his most audacious prank yet, self-destructing one of his best-known works moments after it fetched more than £1 million at an auction in London.

"Girl with Balloon" had just sold at Sotheby's on Friday for £1,042,000 (\$1.4 million) – a joint record for the maverick artist – when it unexpectedly passed through a shredder hidden in the frame, according to the auction house.

"It appears we just got Banksy-ed," said Alex Branczik, Sotheby's head of con-



People watching as Banksy's "Girl with Balloon" automatically shreds itself at an auction in London. BANKSY/INSTAGRAM

temporary art for Europe, in a press release accompanied by a photo of the bizarre episode. "The unexpected incident became instant art world folklore and certainly

marks the first time in auction history that a work of art automatically shredded itself after coming under the hammer," the auctioneers added in the statement.

successful on denuclearising North Korea."

Japan, which has seen North Korean missiles fly over its territory and been threatened with annihilation, has historically taken a hard line on Pyongyang and stressed the need to maintain pressure on the regime.

More recently, however, Mr. Abe has said that the only way to improve strained ties is a face-to-face meeting with former international pariah Kim.

It was important for the U.S. and Japan to be "fully in sync" before he headed to Pyongyang, insisted Mr. Pompeo.

On the plane over, Mr. Pompeo said his aim was to "develop sufficient trust" between Washington and Pyongyang to inch towards peace. "Then we are also going to set up the next summit," he said.

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#FamilyGoals #TimeWellSpent  
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#OurSide #OutOfTheBox #NewMe  
#FestiveFever #CXO #BackInBlack  
#Jogging #ChillPill #FancyKitchen  
#BusinessLine #HomeFoodLove  
#Yoga #Investments #Jogging  
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LONDON

## Next on Irish voters' list: Blasphemy law

 In 2015, comedian Stephen Fry was interviewed on Ireland's RTE Television on his well-known views on God. Asked what he would say to God if he was proved to be wrong and met God at the end of his life, Mr. Fry's response was immediate. "Bone cancer in children, what's that about? How dare you create a world with such misery that is not our fault... it's not right, it's utterly utterly evil." He continued: "Why should I respect a capricious mean-minded stupid God who creates a world so full of injustice and pain?" The interview went viral – with over 7.8 million views today, but two years after it was aired, it emerged that police in Dublin were investigating a complaint of blasphemy against Mr. Fry, under Ireland's anti-defamation law. The anonymous person who filed the complaint said they believed his remarks to be incompatible with Ireland's anti-blasphemy legislation.

The controversial legislation was brought in nine years ago, under the 2009 Defamation Act, which makes blasphemy an offence punishable by a fine of up to € 25,000, drawing on a reference in the 1937 Constitution that had never till then been enforceable.

The last known prosecution for blasphemy was in 1855 over the burning of a Bible, though a reference to it was included in the 1937 Constitution, which failed to specify what blasphemy entailed. While in neighbouring Britain the 1998 Criminal Justice Act abolished the common law offence of blasphemy and blasphemous libel, Ireland introduced the new crime, insisting it was required by the Constitution. For the first time, the legislation elaborated what blasphemy entails – the publication or utterance of matter that is "grossly abusive or insulting in relation to matters held sacred by any religion, thereby causing

 While in Britain the 1998 Criminal Justice Act abolished the common law offence of blasphemy, Ireland introduced the new crime, insisting it was required by the Constitution

outrage among a substantial number of adherents of that religion" or the intention to cause such outrage. The legislation has continued to be deeply unpopular and divisive, and earlier this year, the government of Leo Varadkar (in picture) announced that it would be holding a referendum on October 26. Minister for Justice Charlie Flanagan noted that in a world where in some countries blasphemy was an offence punishable by death, blasphemy laws could not be treated as an anachronism but as a real threat to lives and Ireland needed to send a "strong message" to the world that such laws did not reflect its values. The referendum follows other efforts to liberalise Ireland. In May, over 66% of the public voted to overturn a ban on abortion. Two years earlier, the public also voted overwhelmingly to legalise gay marriage.

**Obsolete reference**  
This week, international human right activists and campaigners added their voice to the calls for change within Ireland, arguing that the existence of blasphemy laws in European democracies like Ireland "gave cover" to the laws they were prosecuted under. "At the same time, it lends false legitimacy to the extremists who claim blasphemy is a sin that warrants intimidation and murder," they wrote in the Irish edition of the *Times*.

There seem to be few who are willing to challenge this perspective. Over the summer, the Irish Catholic Bishop's Conference concluded that the current reference to blasphemy in the Constitution was "largely obsolete" and could give "rise to concern because of the way such measures have been used to justify violence and oppression against minorities in other parts of the world." Yet again, Ireland appears set to take another step forward in its liberalisation.



VIDYA RAM works for The Hindu and is based in London



BEIJING

## Breaching China's glamour citadel


 Chinese President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign is now targeting the glamour icons of the entertainment industry. On Wednesday, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported that megastar Fan Bingbing, whose earnings are only second to that of Jackie Chan, will have to cough out \$129 million in unpaid taxes and fines.

Ms. Fan, 37, has a famous national and international profile. She stars in the well-known *X-man* and *Iron-Man* film franchises. Her next film, *Air Strike*, known in China as *Unbreakable Spirit*, is set for an international debut this year. It is widely reported that the superstar has had tie-ups with top global brands, including Mont Blanc, the German luxury accessories heavyweight, Louis Vuitton of France, whose catwalk she has graced, as well as De Beers, the British diamond ace.

So when the Chinese tax authorities went after Ms. Fan this summer, the message was for all in the Chinese showbiz to come clean. By June, the Chinese actor disappeared from public gaze. Apparently, sleuths of the tax department took her to an undisclosed secret location to get to the bottom of her financial dealings and networks.

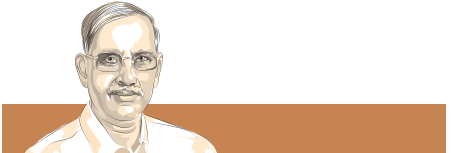
Her mysterious public absence, in turn, was linked to a bizarre event involving a popular presenter on state television. In May, Cui Yongyuan, a host on China Central Television, showed that Ms. Fan concealed her real taxable income through what are colourfully called Yin and Yang accounts. The Yin account that was presented to the tax authorities showed earnings of \$1.6 million for the film *Air Strike*. But the whistleblower, who incidentally has now acquired a hero's halo in the cyber universe of Sina Weibo, the Chinese equivalent of Twitter, showed on screen another, and real payment of the \$ 7.8 million, which was not disclosed.

**Apology from the star**  
Though his revelations were sensational, Mr. Cui, in a bizarre twist, backtracked from his expose. He even apologised to Ms. Fan for the transgression into her financial space. But, apparently, the damage had been done. The Chinese authorities were on the trail. Within months, the investigation was wrapped up, and by early October, the main findings of the investigation were made public. Xinhua reported that Ms. Fan had split her contract, to enable tax evasion of \$1.1 million over payments for her role in *Air Strike*. But Ms. Fan could escape further punishment, in case she files the unpaid taxes and the heavy associated penalties. The icon posted an apology for her actions, which also praised the Communist Party of China.

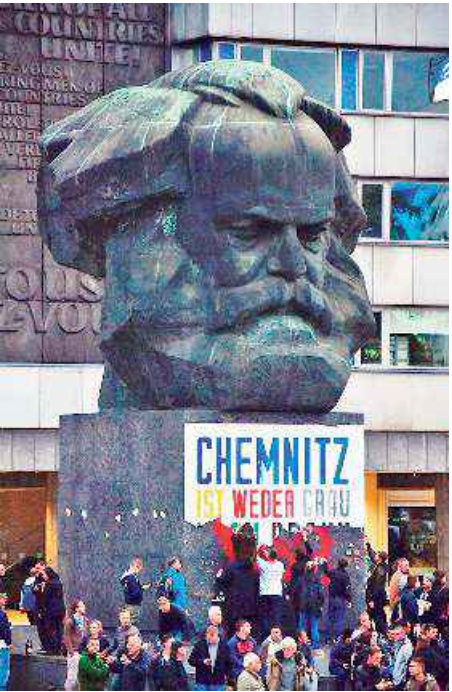
 China's tax authorities have warned that companies and individuals in the entertainment industry must voluntarily "rectify their behaviour" and pay their accumulated taxes by Dec. 31

"One could say that every bit of the achievement I have made cannot be separated from the support of the state and the people. Without the good policies of the Communist Party and the state, without the people's love and care, there would be no Fan Bingbing," she wrote. But netizens, who have been riveted to her saga, have generally not been taken in by Ms. Fan's lengthy remorse.

Many posted online that an apology was insufficient. Instead, she should go to prison, or face blacklisting by the entertainment industry. Others grumble that Ms. Fan has got away relatively lightly because of her celebrity status. While netizens debate the case, the State Administration of Taxation has nailed the big picture. It warned that companies and individuals in the entertainment industry must voluntarily "rectify their behaviour" and pay their accumulated taxes by a December 31 deadline to escape administrative punishment and fines.




ATUL ANEJA works for The Hindu and is based in Beijing



STUTT GART

## The growing threat of far-right terror

 Last week, German authorities arrested eight men in the State of Saxony who were part of a far-right "terrorist" ring, called 'Revolution Chemnitz'. Chemnitz, the largest city in Saxony, was recently in the news when hundreds of neo-Nazis took out a protests against refugees and immigrants. According to police, the group had detailed plans to conduct a terrorist attack on October 3, the Day of Unity. They had also planned to attack migrants, political dissidents and journalists.

The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* reported that 'Revolution Chemnitz' wanted to kill more people than what the National Socialist Underground (NSU), Germany's infamous neo-Nazi terrorist group that murdered 10 people – nine migrants and one police woman – between 2000 and 2007. The extremists tried to get firearms, but they were unsuccessful.

Like other parts of eastern Germany, Saxony is also known for right-wing extremism. At the same time, far-right parties like the Alternative for Germany (AfD) are popular in the State. "It's obvious that the approval ratings for extreme political thought and the AfD are higher [in eastern Germany] than elsewhere," said Franziska Giffey, a Social Democrat politician and Minister of Family.

**Harsh approach**  
Other leading politicians called for a harsh approach towards right-wing extremists. However, many believe the German state is "blind in the right eye" when it comes to dealing with right-wing extremism. Even now, many questions regarding the NSU terrorist group remain unanswered. Last July, Beate Zschäpe, the last living culprit of the "terror trio", faced a life sentence by Munich court. But many observers still believe that the case is not fully solved.

 The far-right ring called Revolution Chemnitz that was arrested in Saxony last week had detailed plans to stage a terrorist attack on the Day of Unity and assault immigrants and journalists

Zschäpe and her dead accomplices, Uwe Böhnhardt and Uwe Mundlos, were not able to spread that much terror by themselves, they say.

During the years-long court proceedings, documents and witnesses vanished. It is well-known that many German neo-Nazis acted as double-agents, serving both the Verfassungsschutz, the domestic intelligence unit, and local extremist groups at the same time. .

"Politics and media don't really focus on right-wing extremism. Too often, they prefer to solely talk about the 'bad Muslim terrorists'. They tend to externalise all these problems, but you cannot do that with neo-Nazism," said Serhat Yücel, an immigrant student from the city of Essen. "For many immigrants, the NSU is the best example that the German state is blind in the right eye. There are still so many unanswered questions and everyone knows that state institutions were somehow involved, but nobody cares," said Karaman, who has Turkish and Kurdish roots. When the NSU murders took place, the German police started to call the atrocities "döner murders", referring to Turkish kebab. Back then, the belief was widespread that migrant groups were killing each other. Later, when the neo-Nazis were unmasked as the culprits, this behaviour was heavily criticised and described as racist.

Especially in Chemnitz, the far-right is particularly strong. Although left-wing groups and activists still continue to stand up to right-wing organisations, extremism is growing since the 1990s, especially since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the beginning of the very unity the country continues to celebrate. Also, the NSU trio spent some time in Chemnitz after committing their crimes. In the city, they found a safe haven and enjoyed local support.




EMRAN FEROZ is a freelance journalist based in Stuttgart, Germany



DHAKA

## The rebel from the Supreme Court

 One of the most brutal attacks on the Bangladesh government in recent times came from an unlikely critic: a former Chief Justice. Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha stacked a litany of allegations against the government in his book, *A Broken Dream: Rule of Law, Human Rights and Democracy*. The most damning allegation was that he was forced to "leave the country, resign and exiled" by the government.

"It was unprecedented in the history of the judiciary," Justice Sinha wrote in the book, now seen as the first outspoken criticism of the government by any judge. He narrated a series of "unfortunate events", which led to the tension between the executive and the judiciary, culminating in his inglorious departure from Bangladesh. The tension began in September 2014, when Bangladesh amended the Constitution to empower the members of Parliament to impeach judges. In doing so, Parliament deleted the long-held provision for removing judges from office through a powerful panel of peers, the Supreme Judicial Council. In his book, Justice Sinha defended the Supreme Judicial Council as a way to protect the judiciary from "being subjected to political vagaries".

The High Court declared the amendment to the Constitution illegal and unconstitutional in a decision in May 2016, which was later upheld by Justice Sinha and his colleagues in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. Soon after the High Court verdict, members of Parliament "blasted judges" and "began displaying sheer disrespect to the judiciary".

"However, the state party opted for an appeal which was heard by a seven-member full appellate bench. It was incumbent on me to head the bench," Justice Sinha wrote. As the tension snowballed into an open battle with the government, Justice Sinha resigned 81 days before the end of his term. He was the first Chief Justice to resign in Bangladesh. After his exit from Bangladesh last year, the Supreme Court issued a rare statement bringing 11 specific charges, including corruption, money laundering and moral lapses, against him. In the book, he responded to the charges and denied any wrongdoing.

**Ripples of anger**  
Justice Sinha launched his book at the National Press Club in Washington, on September 29, days after he first published it in a Kindle edition on Amazon, creating ripples of anger in the government. In Washington, Justice Sinha said he was living like a refugee. He also confirmed that he had sought asylum in the U.S. "I would request the authorities here to

 In his book, former Bangladesh Supreme Court Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha narrates a series of "unfortunate events", which led to tensions between the executive and the judiciary

help me stay because my visa is expiring. I sought political asylum but no decision has been made." Justice Sinha calls the book an incomplete autobiography offering glimpses into how he became the top judge of the Supreme Court coming from a religious and ethnic minority background in a Muslim-majority country. He sees his life as a "Journey through the tempest" against the backdrop of the whirlwind journey of the nation.

In Dhaka, the Anti-Corruption Commission opened a probe into allegations of financial irregularities against Justice Sinha and said it found "evidence" of forgery in the transfer of 40 million taka in loans from a bank into his account. Separately, Justice Sinha faces accusations of corruption and abuse of power in another case filed by Nazmul Huda, a politician expelled by the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, but now close to the ruling Awami League. With the investigators digging the dirt at home, Justice Sinha will be living abroad like a 'refugee', at least for now.



ARUN DEVNATH is a journalist based in Dhaka, Bangladesh




SARAJEVO

## In search of political stability

 Every evening at 6, a crowd of around 200 gathers in the city centre of Banja Luka, the capital of Republika Srpska, the Serb-dominated ruling entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to protest against the death of David Dragičević, a young man who was found dead in March. Various cities in the country, including the capital city of Sarajevo, have witnessed protests since the murder seeking "truth and justice", but their demand may be drowned out by the election spectacle. Protesters, headed by Dragičević's father Davor Dragičević, accuse the government of covering up his son's "murder". The government, which initially constituted an investigating committee, later dissolved it even after the panel found Dragicevic was murdered.

Bosnia and Herzegovina goes to the polls on Sunday to elect the national presidency and members of the House of Representatives. Dragičević's death may have rattled the campaign, but the main talking point is the country's EU accession. Post-war Bosnia's Constitution is a product of the Dayton Accord, drawn up in its namesake city in Ohio in 1995 and signed in Paris. It was meant only to end the war that broke Yugoslavia and, hence, offered little foresight for the country's stability. Under the current system, three members are elected for the Presidency from Bosniak, Serb and Croat ethnicities and each gets an eight-month term as Chair of the Presidency. At the last count, 53 political parties are contesting the elections. Across party lines, EU integration remains the top priority. "The western Balkan countries should be part of the EU soon. The border issues will become irrelevant if we become members of the EU," said Sefik Dzaferovic, a candidate for President from the Bosniak party, SDA. That, of course,

 Issues ranging from murder of a youth to EU accession dominate discussions while Bosnia and Herzegovina goes to polls to elect the national presidency and Parliament on Sunday

is easier said than done. A 2016 report by the German political think tank Friedrich Ebert Foundation on the EU integration of Bosnia painted a less hopeful picture. "After two decades of an intense and robust state-building process, BiH (Bosnia) still exhibits a number of characteristics of failed states," it reads. It noted that the decentralised government structure is a particular challenge for stability.

**Sense of urgency**  
But aspirations run high on the topic of EU accession and there is a sense of urgency when political parties talk about the topic. Neighbouring Macedonia has been waiting to join the EU since 2004 and Serbia's accession has been under discussion since 2007. The EU, on its part, has set the ball rolling to admit Bosnia in the union and initiated the process with a questionnaire to assess its readiness.

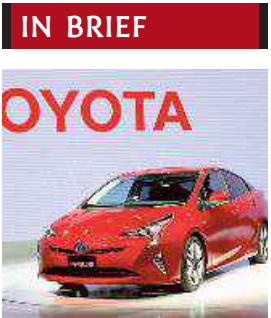
"We recently answered more than 3,200 questions that ran to 20,000 pages," Denis Zvizdić, Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, told reporters. "Seventy-eight per cent of Bosnians support EU integration." For an outsider, it may seem obvious that the country's electoral structure and Constitution need an overhaul, but politicians are betting that the EU membership offers a one-stop solution for the country's many troubles. Traditionally, about 60% of Bosnians vote in elections, registering little faith in the complex electoral process that excludes minorities such as Jews and Roma to contest the polls.

Whether Dragicevic's murder protests have any impact on the elections remains to be seen. For the electorate, there may be a lot to choose from at the ballot box. But with no signs of electoral reforms on the cards and no immediate plan of joining the EU, elections are fought on just one time-tested modus operandi – overstated political promises.



PRATHAP NAIR is a freelance journalist and was recently in Bosnia





**IN BRIEF**

**Toyota to recall 2.4 mn hybrid vehicles**

TOKYO  
Toyota Motor Corp. said it was recalling a total of 2.43 million gasoline hybrid vehicles at home and abroad over a hybrid system issue which can lead to stalling. The recall, which includes Prius model, covers vehicles produced between October 2008 and November 2014. Toyota said that it was not aware of any crashes due to the issue in Japan. REUTERS



**Grab: SoftBank close to investing \$500 mn more**

JAKARTA/SINGAPORE  
SoftBank Group Corp. is nearing a deal to invest about \$500 million in Grab as part of roughly \$1 billion that southeast Asia's biggest ride-hailing firm is seeking in its latest funding, sources with knowledge of the matter said. Grab has garnered more than \$6 billion in total funding, led by SoftBank and others. REUTERS



**J.P. Morgan to settle 'violation of sanctions'**

WASHINGTON  
J.P. Morgan Chase Bank has agreed to pay \$5.3 million to settle allegations it violated Cuban Assets Control Regulations, as well as Iranian and Weapons of Mass Destruction sanctions, 87 times, the U.S. Treasury said, The Treasury also said it had found that the bank had violated sanctions on narcotics and Syria. REUTERS



**Daimler to build EV batteries in Tuscaloosa**

FRANKFURT  
Daimler said it will start building a battery plant as part of its planned \$1 billion investment to upgrade its factory in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, which has also started to produce a new sports utility vehicle, the GLE. The investment comes as the parent of Mercedes-Benz prepares to launch an electric SUV, the EQ. REUTERS

# After years of sluggishness, U.S. may have come back to normal

However, creeping inflation and rising bond yields pose risks to the recovery

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

For a solid decade after the collapse of Lehman Brothers touched off a global financial crisis, there was good reason to think the U.S. economy remained broken, from skepticism about the health of the labour market to tepid economic growth and the moribund rate of interest paid on U.S. Treasury bonds.

In a heartbeat, that seemed to change this week, adding facts on the ground to Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's glowing portrait of a historically rosy and extended period of super-low unemployment, modest inflation and steady growth.

It came through Amazon.com Inc's move to a \$15 minimum wage, possibly setting the bar for companies nationwide. It came through a jump in long-term bond yields that signalled faith the gears of growth will remain engaged for a record-long recovery. On Friday, it came through the 3.7% unemployment rate, a 49-year low, continuing a run of employment growth that many analysts, including at the Fed, have long expected to slow.

**Growing wage inflation**  
"Wage inflation is creeping higher," said Russell Price, senior economist at Ameriprise Financial Services Inc in Troy, Michigan. "There's no question the job market in the United States is possibly at its best in a generation. There's no question or debate about



**Saw it coming:** The Fed has been anticipating that the lack of available workers will prompt companies to raise wages. ■ AFP

that. The jobs report has become an inflation report."

Treasury bond yields rose further on the payrolls report, with the benchmark 10-year-note yield touching its highest level since 2011, and U.S. stocks slipped.

The week's events were not just consistent with the good times scenario both Mr. Powell and U.S. President Donald Trump have laid out. They validated it, and in doing so pointed to a U.S. economy that may be starting to work more like it used to.

As an exercise in old-fashioned supply and demand, Amazon's decision to raise starting wages across the board was perhaps the best example. Fed and other officials have been anticipating for a while, in fact, that the lack of available workers would prompt companies to raise wages.

"When productivity growth is faster, that is your opportunity to share some of your extra output with

your workers. That's what gets wages higher," said Vincent Reinhart, chief economist at investment manager Standish, and former head of the Fed's monetary affairs division.

Even former skeptics have become open to the idea that a recent rise in productivity may turn into a trend, drawing comparisons with the "Great Moderation" period of growth during the 1990s, which also featured low unemployment and solid wage growth. The rise in long-term bond rates also may herald a return to more normal conditions, giving cautious investors a reasonable return after years of lacklustre outcomes, and easing concerns about a flat or "inverted" yield curve that would herald loss of faith in the future. There is reason to think it may continue.

To pay for the Republican tax cuts and the bump in defence spending, the Treasury is flooding the market

with bonds at a near-record pace, with gross issuance of bills, notes and bonds in August topping \$1 trillion in a month for only the second time ever, according to federal SIFMA data.

**Shrinking bond portfolio**  
To sell all those bonds, the Treasury may have to pay higher rates. Meanwhile, a major customer, the Fed, whose purchases of \$3.5 trillion of assets during and after the crisis helped foster the recovery, has started shrinking its bond portfolio by \$50 billion a month.

There are risks surrounding the week's development, and a few anomalies.

The Fed, for example, is convinced that with its gradual continuing rate increases, inflation will remain controlled – even as unemployment dives for years to come below levels not seen since the 1960s.

If inflation does kick in, as it might be expected to do with such a hot labour market and with Mr. Trump's tariffs pushing up the cost of some imports, it would force the Fed to speed up rate hikes and possibly end the party.

Surging bond rates could also throw cold water on Mr. Powell's positive thinking, and call the Fed's whole strategy of gradual rate increases into question. High Treasury rates mean higher rates for mortgage lending, auto loans, and a host of other forms of credit that could slow the real economy more than the Fed would like.

# Unilever reverses plan to close London headquarters

The company bowed to shareholder criticism of the move

MICHAEL J. DE LA MERCEZ  
KEVIN GRANVILLE

Unilever, the consumer products giant, has given up on plans to close its London headquarters, bowing to shareholder criticism of a move to simplify its corporate structure.

The company announced in March that it would make Rotterdam, the Netherlands, its sole headquarters. The move would have marked an end to Unilever's life as a conglomerate with two corporate homes that was rooted in its formation through the merger of a British soap maker and a Dutch margarine producer nearly a century ago.

But the plan was both a symbolic and a financial blow for Britain.

Unilever, a British corporate icon whose products run from Dove soap to Lipton tea to Marmite, announced plans on leaving for the continent as Britain was negotiating its break-up with the European Union.

(The company has denied any links between the move and Brexit.)

**Blow to CEO**  
Analysts saw the change of plans as a blow to Unilever's chief executive, Paul Polman, who championed the move as a way to make the company more agile and better able to strike mergers. Such was Mr. Polman's belief in the plan that he campaigned for it, including on the BBC.

But leaving London could have meant that Unilever would be dropped from the FTSE 100 stock index, forcing



**Risky bet:** Had it exited London, the firm would have also exited the FTSE 100, forcing large MFs to sell holdings. ■ AP

**Dual-headed model will provide opportunities for value-creation for investors**

MARILYN DEKKERS  
Unilever chairman

ing several large mutual funds to sell their holdings.

For that reason, many big money managers, including Legal & General Investment Management and M&G Investments, publicly criticised the plan, leaving it unclear whether Unilever could prevail in a shareholder vote on the matter this month.

"We recognise that the proposal has not received support from a significant group of shareholders and therefore consider it appropriate to withdraw," the company said in a statement Friday, though it maintained a belief that the plan was the correct move.

"The board continues to

believe that simplifying our dual-headed structure would, over time, provide opportunities to further accelerate value-creation and serve the best long-term interests of Unilever," Marilyn Dekkers, Unilever's chairman, said in the statement. "The board will now consider its next steps and will continue to engage with our shareholders."

Unilever said last year that it would review its legal structure after Kraft Heinz briefly considered a \$143 billion takeover of the company.

The reversal is a victory for the British government officials who have lobbied hard to persuade Unilever to maintain its London headquarters.

Britain's Business Secretary, Greg Clark, praised the company's move on Twitter as "a welcome decision by Unilever board having listened to shareholders." NYT

# General Electric could take a leaf from Musk on CEO pay

Boosting stock by 150% for 30 days could get Culp \$226 mn

ANTONY CURRIE  
NEW YORK

General Electric could take a leaf from Elon Musk's book on how to pay its new chief executive, Larry Culp.

Mr. Musk hasn't been setting a great example in other ways, most recently deriding in a tweet the U.S. securities regulator with whom he had just agreed to settle a lawsuit, calling the watchdog the Shortseller Enrichment Commission. But on pay structure, his ambition for the electric-car maker is a guide for others.

**Rigorous targets**  
Granted, the amount he could earn over 10 years is a ludicrous \$60 billion. But the targets he would have to hit are rigorous and defensible: growing annual revenue to \$175 billion, 15 times last year's top-line; a huge increase in EBITDA to \$14 billion; and raising Tesla's market capitalisation to \$650 billion.

That valuation was more than 10 times the company's market capitalisation in January when the plan was set. Mr. Culp's deal involves salary, bonuses and stock grants that could top \$20 million a year over four years.

## COMMENT

An extra pay-off would come from an additional one-time inducement award worth \$226 million, by Breakingviews calculations, a mouthwatering amount for virtually anyone except Mr. Musk. And bagging it requires Mr. Culp to score just one goal: getting GE's share price up 150% for at least 30 days at some point during the next four years.

That won't necessarily be easy. Even boosting GE's stock by 50% to trigger a lower \$45 million payout could be tough, considering the battering the company's shares and reputation have

taken over the past year or so. But Mr. Culp has four years to do it. And a stock-price target can be gamed: buybacks, for example, increase the value of remaining shares, not that GE currently has the cash for that. The stock only has to reach the target price for a month, and the CEO will collect his extra shares even if the price then falls again.

For a mature company like GE, the boss's incentives should be like Mr. Musk's but more so cover a range of targets. These might include return on invested capital and perhaps non-financial goals like executive diversity and reduced environmental impact. A clawback mechanism wouldn't go amiss, either, given the company's recent write-offs. The stock price would then, over time, take care of itself.

(The author is a Reuters Breakingviews columnist. The opinions expressed are his own)

## Going back to where it all started



**A return to roots:** General Motors' Cadillac has announced that it is moving its headquarters out of the trendy SoHo neighbourhood to metro Detroit, four years after it moved to New York. Cadillac, which plans to start the move next month, had relocated to New York in search of a new and younger generation of buyers of the luxury car brand. ■ AFP

# Ford: an automaker at a crossroads, seeks cuts and partners

The company is reorganising its worldwide salaried workforce of 70,000 to have a leaner staff by second quarter of 2019

NEAL E. BOUDETTE  
DEARBORN (MICHIGAN)

When Ford Motor was celebrating the 100th anniversary of its Rouge industrial complex last week, its chairman, William C. Ford Jr., offered an optimistic outlook for the years ahead.

The company is still solidly profitable, he said, and while it is losing money overseas, it is working on a solution. Furthermore, he praised the ability and leadership of Ford's chief executive, Jim Hackett, who he said was doing "a really good job." "I don't think it's even close to a crisis," he said.

Not everyone shares his confidence.

The automaker's bottom line is weakening despite record sales of its pick-up trucks and SUVs. In August,

its credit rating was cut to one level above junk status. And Ford's stock price has fallen to its lowest point since 2009, when the U.S. economy was in a deep recession.

"The foundation of Ford – the trucks – is still healthy, but there are concerns about whether Ford has prepared for tomorrow and the future," said Karl Brauer, executive publisher of the auto information providers Autotrader and Kelley Blue Book. "Ford hasn't been effective enough in convincing investors that they are."

In the latest move to cut costs, Ford is reorganizing its worldwide salaried workforce of 70,000 with the goal of having a leaner staff by the second quarter of 2019. The move is likely to eliminate several thousand jobs, said

Karen Hampton, a company spokeswoman.

She said the reorganisation was meant to speed decision-making and cut the time it takes to develop new vehicles, two points Mr. Hackett has emphasised.

Part of the frustration among those sizing up the company stems from Mr. Hackett's slow roll-out of a recovery plan. Since taking the helm in May 2017, Mr. Hackett has outlined broad cost-reduction goals, but has stopped short of explaining how they will be achieved.

Ford is also in talks with Volkswagen about a broad alliance that could help turn around its ailing operations in Europe and South America. It is also discussing ways to expand cooperation with Mahindra, the Indian auto-



**Bumpy road ahead:** The company's bottomline is weakening despite record sales of its pick-up trucks and SUVs. ■ AFP

maker. India is another market where Ford is struggling.

Ford makes money on delivery vans and other small trucks, an area where Volkswagen struggles. The cooperation could involve helping Volkswagen produce small

pick-ups like the Ford Ranger and sharing the cost of developing electric vehicles and other technologies to meet more stringent emissions regulations in Europe.

A century ago, Ford revolutionised auto manufactur-

ing when it opened the Rouge complex. A marvel in its time, it produced cars and all their parts. It generated its own electricity, had a hospital and police station and employed as many as 1,00,000 workers. This vertical integration helped Ford lower costs enough to produce cars that ordinary people could afford.

Today, Ford must again find ways to cut costs. In July, Mr. Hackett said his restructuring plan could involve charges of \$11 billion over the next three to five years. That news arrived as Ford reported net income declined by nearly half to \$1.1 billion in the second quarter.

The urgency was highlighted last week when Mr. Hackett said that the Trump administration's tariffs on

imported aluminum and steel would raise Ford's costs by \$1 billion. The company said the costs would be incurred in 2018 and 2019.

**Profits plunge**  
Just two years ago, Ford seemed like the healthiest of the three Detroit automakers. But while it makes a solid profit on trucks and SUVs like the Explorer, recent earnings reports have showed it losing money on its cars. At the same time, profit has plunged in Europe and Asia, efforts to turn around its South American business have shown little progress, and returns in North America, by far Ford's largest region, have slumped.

"The problem is they didn't update and redesign their products enough,"

said Michelle Krebs, executive analyst at Autotrader.

Now Ford's line-up faces a radical revamping. In April, the firm said it would stop making sedans for the U.S. market to shore up profits. Within a year or two, familiar models like the Fusion, Focus, Fiesta and Taurus will disappear from showrooms. In their place, Ford is planning new SUVs, truck variants and electric vehicles.

Mr. Hackett has talked about how Ford will make decisions and develop vehicles faster – or increase the company's "clock speed," as he terms it. But his reluctance to spell out the elements of his restructuring plan has ruffled analysts who follow the company and try to predict how much money it will make.





Season's best: In mid-September, growers across Kashmir start harvesting apples. The season goes on till mid-November.



Red rain: A farmer has his hands full sorting the apples.



Dapple-grey weather: It's a race against time for apple farmers in Kashmir as the fickle weather can put the brakes on a bumper harvest this season.

# Kashmir's blush

The Valley's famous apple orchards are in fruit with a bumper crop

TEXT BY PEERZADA ASHIQ AND IMAGES BY NISSAR AHMAD

Apple trees droop heavily with fruit in the famous orchards of Kashmir this season. In the apple-rich districts of south and north Kashmir, the harvest continues to be a family affair. The orchard owners have a reason to cheer, as the Horticulture Department has declared a bumper crop.

The department is looking to best the previous record of 17.9 tonnes in 2017 after some high-yielding varieties were introduced. Accounting for 71% of the national apple production, the Valley is sending over 500 trucks carrying the fruit to various parts of the country and Nepal, Bangladesh and other countries every day. Each truck carries 500 to 1,300 boxes. The transport started in the first week of September, and will

only increase by November-end. "The number of trucks goes up to 1,500 a day in October and November," a Horticulture Department official said.

Pulwama district is looking at reaping ₹720 crore from apple sales this year, Deputy Commissioner G.M. Dar says. Pulwama is counted among the apple-rich districts of Kashmir, besides Shopian and Baramulla.

When traditional orchards produce just 10 to

12 tonnes, those with imported breeds such as M-6 fetch 25 tonnes. Introduced in the 1930s in Sopore district of north Kashmir, covering 12,000 hectares, the apple crop now stands on nearly 2.14 lakh hectares in the Valley. The apple industry generates around 7.71 crores man-days, with women making up over 25% of the workforce. Seven lakh farming families are directly or indirectly dependent on apple cultivation.



Valley's famous export: As the bumper apple crop has painted a red streak across orchards in Kashmir, farmers are busy harvesting the fruit for transport across India and abroad.



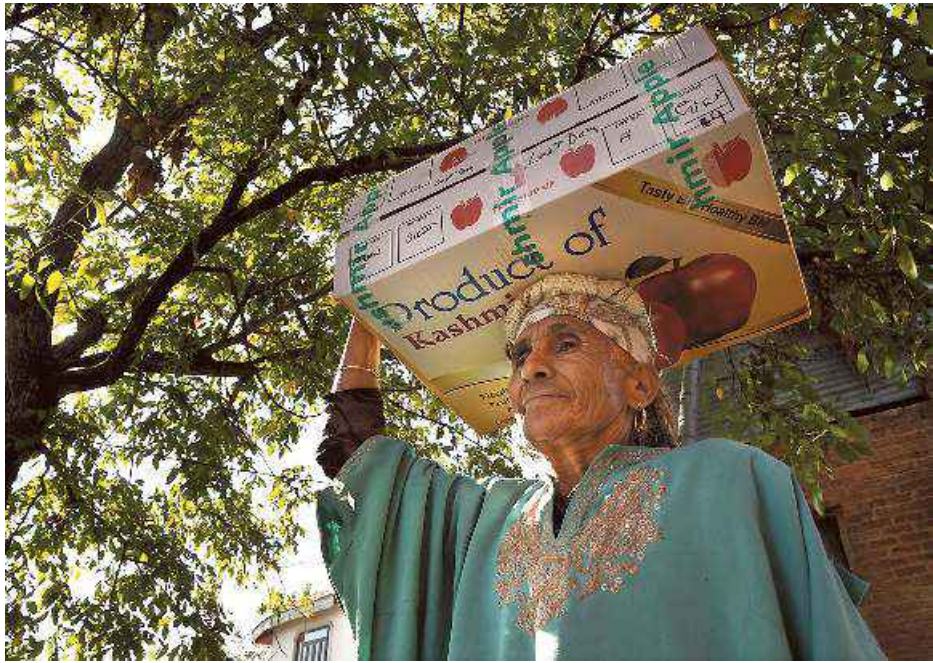
Colour palette: Green vying for attention amid a sea of red.



On the move: A farmer wheels the freshly plucked produce for sorting.



In apple-pie order: Packing the juicy bunches.



In transit: Apples in boxes go to waiting trucks.



## DNDND

Source: ACEMR



EYE ON THE MARKET

# Dos and don'ts in a falling market

Play your cards well now to cash in when the markets revive



• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

LOKESHWARRI SK

Indian equity investors have gone through one of the worst weeks in recent memory with the Sensex and the Nifty shedding more than 5 per cent in the past week

The benchmark indices, the Sensex and the Nifty, had been enjoying an unbridled bull-run since February 2016.

The two corrections since then, in the last quarter of 2016 and in February and March 2018, have been relatively shallow, resulting in value erosion of only 10 per cent from the index peaks.

The decline from the Sensex and Nifty's recent peaks is already edging close to 12 per cent.

But of greater concern is the fact that the negatives seem to be piled high at this point – sliding rupee, rising crude-oil prices, a trade war that is spinning out of control, rising treasury yields in the US and tightening global liquidity.

While things do look bleak at this point, market veterans will tell you that just one small trigger is enough to change the market sentiment.

Indian markets have many

strong favourable factors at this point.

### Domestic liquidity

While it is true that foreign portfolio investors have so far pulled out ₹17,598 crore from Indian equity markets in 2018 and are contributing to the sell-off, domestic mutual funds have emerged a strong counter-party to absorb the selling in recent years. Mutual funds have net purchased ₹88,667 crore worth of stocks so far in 2018.

In 2017, domestic MFs net purchased more than twice the amount purchased by FPIs, and in 2016, MFs bought thrice as much as FPIs. With inflows into domestic mutual funds surging since 2014, MFs have now emerged a dominant force that can cushion such declines in our market. The good news is that much of these flows are in the form of SIPs that tend to continue despite market vagaries.

### Upbeat consumption

Private consumption continues to be upbeat. With the RBI deciding to adopt a calibrated approach to rate hikes, the consumption ap-

ple-cart will not be upset too much in the near term. While stocks in sectors driven by domestic consumption, such as FMCG, consumer durables, media and entertainment, had run up too much in the past two years and become pricey, the recent correction has made value emerge in many of these sectors.

Moreover, earnings of India Inc have been decent in recent quarters. In the June 2018 quarter, listed companies delivered 16.5 per cent revenue growth and 22.3 per cent earnings growth compared with the same quarter the previous year. While it can be argued that the roll-out of GST depressed the earnings in the June 2017 quarter and hence might have inflated the growth, the nominal economic growth of close to 11 per cent bodes well for company earnings in the future, too.

There are headwinds in the form of the stressed assets of the banking sector, looming elections and the impact of rising crude-oil prices. But overall, India Inc is not too badly placed to face these.

What investors should do

In 2018, the Sensex and the

Nifty were among the biggest gainers compared with other global indices, despite the worries on the rupee and the external account. Indian markets are now falling in line with other global markets. The decline could, therefore, continue for some more time as the trade war, rising crude prices and higher yields in the US cause foreign fund outflows from Indian markets.

So what should you do if the correction continues?

### Stick to large-caps

Large-cap stocks typically tend to be the sector leaders in each space and are the first to revive when the trend reverses.

Another reason why large-cap stocks are recommended at this juncture is because mutual funds seem to have a larger holding in the bigger stocks. As of June 2018, the top 20 stocks listed in India – ranked according to their market capitalisation – accounted for 42 per cent of MF assets, and the top 50 stocks accounted for 58 per cent of MF holdings.

### Don't time the market

Trying to time the market is a mug's game. The correction

in 2008 resulted in the Sensex declining 66 per cent from its peak. Anyone who thought the bottom was hit when the Sensex declined 30 per cent in 2008 would have rued his decision a month later when their investment would have halved. Similarly, someone who waited for a 60 per cent decline in the Sensex in the 2015 correction would have not purchased any stocks then, as the correction halted after a 25 per cent decline from the peak.

It would be best to stick to your systematic investment plans in market declines so that you can make the most of the fall to buy more units. Indian markets are on a multi-year bull-run and your investments will surely pay off over the longer term.

### Look for value

Lastly, do not lose focus on the stock fundamentals. Corrections such as these give you the opportunity to buy your favourite stock at a better valuation. Keep a hawk-eye on the stock's PE ratio. If it falls below its three-year average and if the business prospects are all right, you know that you have nothing to lose over the longer term.



### HIGH ON NEGATIVES

- Sliding rupee
- Rising crude prices
- Tightening global liquidity

### Breathe easy

Just one small trigger is enough to change the market sentiment. Scout for value buys and stick to your SIPs

## PORTFOLIO IDEAS

# How to spend, and yet save

Your savings rate should increase from 10-15% when you start working, to 50% when you approach retirement

B VENKATESH

Your annual savings rate changes significantly during your working life. In this article, we discuss the factors that necessitate such a change.

### Present vs future

You should have a disciplined approach to savings. Otherwise, you are unlikely to save and meet your life goals. Fortunately, technology has made it easy for you to save — via systematic investment plans (SIPs).

Of course, how much you save is one of the biggest trade-offs in life. You may have to sacrifice some of your current lifestyle if you want to save more today. Save less today and you may be unable to fulfil your life goals.

You have to, therefore, vary your savings rate through



your working life to achieve your life goals. Why?

For one, your free cash flows change during your working life. By free cash flows, we mean post-tax cash flows available to meet your savings and current spending after setting aside money for loan repayments.

Consider this. You are likely to buy a house on mortgage after you start working. This is likely to consume 40 per cent of your post-tax

monthly income. Then, there is your child's college education. Add other lifestyle needs, and a good part of your post-tax monthly income is used for funding such borrowings till the age of 45. Fortunately, your borrowings reduce as you age. You will significantly pay down your mortgage by the time you turn 45.

Now, there are two sides to your free cash flows — your inflows and your out-

flows. Your inflows increase as you age. Your outflows reduce as you cross 45 and your free cash flows increase substantially on your way to retirement.

The second reason your savings will change during your working life has to do with the fact that your risk appetite will reduce as you approach retirement.

You will, therefore, want less of risky assets (equity) and more of stable assets (bonds) in your portfolio as you age. And that means you have to increase your savings to bridge shortfall in returns.

### Forward SIPs

Increasing your savings can, however, hurt your current lifestyle. So, you can channel cash flows that were earlier used for paying liabilities. Suppose, you are paying ₹50,000 as EMI on your

mortgage. You should set up an SIP for ₹50,000 just as your mortgage is due for completion.

You should set up a forward SIP each year around the time your performance review and salary hike are due. You can increase your savings by setting aside about 30 per cent of your incremental salary without hurting your current lifestyle.

Typically, your savings rate should increase from 10-15 per cent when you start working to about 50 per cent when you approach retirement. Fortunately, your income level typically balances your change in risk behaviour to facilitate your savings trajectory.

The author is founder of Navera Consulting. Send your feedback to portfolioideas@thehindu.co.in



### Jargon buster

Free cash flow is the post-tax cash flows available to meet your savings and current spending after setting aside money for loan repayments

## PRODUCT REVIEW

# Wealth builder for the long term

DHURAIVEL GUNASEKARAN

Bajaj Allianz Life Goal Assure is an online unit-linked insurance plan (ULIP) that has some competitive features. The plan scores over other online ULIPs on fund performance and tailor-made portfolio strategies.

On maturity, the plan will give out the fund value. On the death of the insured during the policy term, the fund value, or 105 per cent of total premiums paid, or sum assured, whichever is higher, will be paid.

### Fund options

Bajaj Allianz Life Goal Assure offers eight fund options for investors with different risk profiles. They are: Equity Growth Fund II — a large-cap fund that allocates around 90 per cent in equity; Accelerator Mid-Cap Fund II; Pure Stock Fund II — a multi-cap equity fund that allocates 75-100 per cent in equity and follows ethical investment strategy; Pure Stock Fund — a multi-cap equity fund that allocates 60-100 per cent in equity and follows ethical in-

vestment strategy;

Asset Allocation Fund II — a balanced fund that allocates 40-90 per cent in equity and the rest in debt papers; Blue-chip Equity Fund — a large-cap fund that invests primarily in Nifty 50 stocks; Bond Fund — a pure debt fund that invests in G-Secs and highest-rated debt papers; and Liquid Fund

### Portfolio strategies

The plan offers four investment portfolio strategies: investor selectable strategy; wheel of life — premium is invested based on the number of years to maturity across five fund options; trigger-based strategy — the value of equity fund in excess of thrice the value of the bond fund is transferred to a liquid fund to secure the gains; and auto transfer strategy — systematic transferring from bond fund and liquid fund to any fund of your choice every month.

### Our take

Equity funds offered by Bajaj Allianz Life have been chart-toppers across periods and beaten their respective benchmarks and peers since launch. For instance, Bajaj Allianz Life Pure Stock Fund has delivered a compounded annualised return of 20.2 per cent in the five-year time-frame.

During the same period, ULIP funds in the large-cap category clocked 16 per cent returns, while large-cap mutual funds delivered 14.9 per cent.

The plan returns all the mortality charges along with the maturity benefit. It also offers a 'fund booster' on

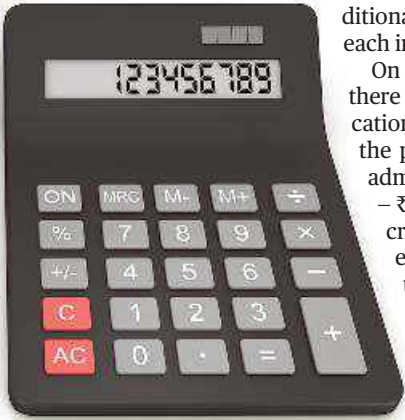
Investors with a high risk profile can consider Bajaj Allianz Life Goal Assure

ditional 0.5 per cent in each instalment due.

On the charges front, there is no premium allocation charge. However, the plan levies a policy administration charge — ₹400 per annum, increasing 5 per cent every year (subject to a maximum of ₹6,000). The fund management charge is 1.25-1.35 per cent for equity funds and 0.95 per cent for debt funds.

The net yield under the plan for a gross return of 8 per cent, assuming a term of 20 years and an annual premium of ₹10 lakh, comes to 6.79 per cent. This is more or less equal to that of other online ULIPs.

Long-term investors with a high risk profile can consider this ULIP and choose equity fund options.



### FEATURES

- Age limit: 0-65 years
- Policy term: 5/10/15/20 years
- Minimum premium: ₹36,000 (yearly)

### In vogue

New-age unit-linked insurance plans have been gaining attention given their lower cost structure, better fund performance and higher tax benefit compared with mutual funds



## IN BRIEF



## Indian Bank revises FCNR(B) deposit interest

CHENNAI Indian Bank said it has revised the foreign currency non-resident banking term deposits with immediate effect. For FCNR(B) deposits, in U.S. Dollar terms, the revised interest rates for deposits of one year and above, but less than two years has been fixed at 3.78%, the bank said in a statement. For deposits of two years and above, but less than three years, interest rates have been revised at 3.98%. PTI

## Mobile phone prices cut by up to 62% on Flipkart

NEW DELHI Mobile phone firms are reducing their handset prices by up to 62% for the upcoming four-day sale on e-commerce portal Flipkart beginning October 11. While Samsung has announced ₹20,000 discount on its newly launched Galaxy S8 which currently sells at ₹49,000 a unit, Panasonic will sell its 4G smartphone P91 at discount of 62% for ₹2,990 during the Big Billion Day (BBD) sale period. PTI

## Poorvika Mobiles sets up first outlet in Kerala

CHENNAI Mobile phone retailer Poorvika Mobiles on Saturday set up its first outlet in Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram as part of its expansion drive in South India. Poorvika Mobiles currently has around 300 outlets in 65 cities across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Puducherry, according to a press release. CEO, N. Uvaraj, said that the company was keen on expanding its customer-base in the country.

## Race for Essar Steel set to get hotter

JSW Steel hints at putting in an independent bid if Committee of Creditors calls for fresh bids

PIYUSH PANDEY  
MUMBAI

The race for Essar Steel is set for a fresh twist with Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel indicating that it may throw its hat in the ring as an individual bidder.

This comes even as reports suggest that the existing bidders - ArcelorMittal and NuMetal - are not unduly worried by the Supreme Court's judgment asking them to clear all dues of Indian lenders within two weeks to become eligible for the bid. NuMetal is backed by VTB Group of Russia, while JSW Steel is a member of the Numetal consortium.

JSW Steel, it is gleaned from informed sources, is interested in putting its own bid for Essar Steel in case the NuMetal consortium fails to



**Sensing opportunity:** JSW Steel is likely to make its bid in case NuMetal consortium loses eligibility. • REUTERS

secure eligibility or its bid is not accepted by the Committee of Creditors (CoC).

## Standalone basis

If CoC calls a fresh a round of bids, JSW Steel will participate independently as it is always eligible for any asset on a standalone basis, said a

source in the know of the development. "Given that JSW has not got any big asset under IBC like Tatas, its bid for Essar Steel makes sense," said Paras Bothra, president, Equities, Ashika Stock Broking. However, a JSW spokesperson declined to offer any comments on the company's

interest in bidding for Essar Steel. ArcelorMittal is willing to settle its dues of ₹7,000 crore towards defaults by Uttam Galva and KSS Petron.

NuMetal believes that if it settles the entire dues of ₹49,000 crore of Essar Steel, the company should belong to it and there should be no question of any further bids. It is likely to seek a clarification from the apex court in this regard.

VTB Group, which backs Numetal, maintains its intention to invest in the Indian steel company Essar Steel.

ArcelorMittal may have to pay ₹12,000 crore on defaults of Uttam Galva and KSS Petron, including interest. Another ₹5,000 crore is to be paid for defaults of Gonterman Pipes, Ispat Profile and Arcelor Mittal Dham-

ma Processing Pvt. Ltd.

An e-mail sent to ArcelorMittal on the issue failed to elicit a reply till the time of going to press. A source close to the firm said the Supreme Court ruling clearly dismissed the attempts of NuMetal to convince the court that ArcelorMittal was liable for the dues of firms associated with Mr. Mittal's brother.

ArcelorMittal may not go ahead with Essar Steel if it is forced to pay an additional ₹17,000 crore for NPAs in India as it had already committed to pay ₹42,000 crore for Essar Steel. This will work out to a total payout of ₹59,000 crore.

In that case, the CoC has to go with Vedanta's bid, which is much lower at just ₹34,000 crore, and look for a third round of bids.

## Norms set for e-trading platforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines for operating Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) to transact in eligible instruments. Trading on electronic platforms is being encouraged across the world as it enhances pricing transparency, processing efficiency and risk control.

As per the norms, ETPs will mean any electronic system, other than a recognised stock exchange, on which transactions in eligible instruments take place.

"No entity shall operate an ETP without obtaining prior authorisation of the Reserve Bank under these directions," the RBI said.

## MM Forgings draws up capacity expansion plan

Plans greenfield project for making front axles, beams

N. ANAND  
CHENNAI

Auto components maker MM Forgings Ltd. has drawn up plans to increase its annual production capacity to 1,00,000 tonnes by March, said a top official.

"The expansion will take place across all our four plants," said Vidyashankar Krishnan, vice chairman and managing director, MM Forgings Ltd. "The installation is over and the capacity realisation will happen over the next eight to 10 months."

Right now, MMF has an installed production capacity of 72,000 tonnes and this would be ramped up to 1,00,000 tonnes by March



Vidyashankar Krishnan

across Singampunari (Madurai), Viralimalai (Tiruchirappalli), Oragadam (Chennai) and Rudrapur (Uttarakhand) units.

The firm had planned for an overall investment of ₹658 crore of which ₹283 crore had been incurred till

date on increasing the production capacity.

## Investment in plant

About ₹175 crore would be spent on a greenfield project, he said, adding the balance would be spent on further expanding production capacities of Viralimalai and Singampunari units.

Funds would be raised mostly through internal accruals and debt. Stating the green field plant would come up in North/Central India over the next 8-10 months, he said the facility would make front axles, axle arms and crankshaft for the commercial vehicle market.

## PNB Housing raises \$200 mn via ECBs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Mortgage lender PNB Housing Finance Saturday said it had raised \$200 million (about ₹1,470 crore) through external commercial borrowing (ECB), its first under the automatic route of the RBI.

This year, the Reserve Bank of India has allowed housing finance companies to borrow through ECB up to \$750 million annually under the automatic route, the company said.

The funds will be used for normal business operations. "This will not only enhance our liquidity profile but also further enhance our ALM position as the facility is for 5 years," PNB Housing added.

## Dena Bank plans to bring down gross NPA by ₹6,000 cr.

Eyeing 15% GNPA from 22% now: MD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Dena Bank plans to bring down its gross non-performing asset (NPA) by between ₹5,000 crore and ₹6,000 crore by end-March, said a top official.

"Our gross NPAs are about ₹16,000 crore. The target is to bring it down to ₹10,000 crore by the end of March 2019," said MD and CEO Karnam Sekar, addressing the media, after he met the bank's branch managers in the city. He was appointed to the post last month.

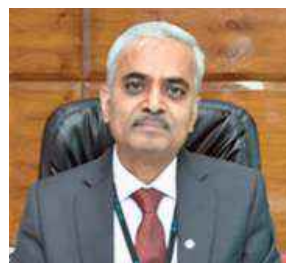
The Centre had earlier announced its intention to merge Dena Bank, Vijaya Bank and Bank of Baroda to form the country's second largest public sector bank.

## Internal panel formed

"We have formed an internal committee to decide on an action plan. I understand the other two banks too have formed such committees. The three [CEOs] will meet next week." Asked about a timeline for the merger, he said, "The others in the merger process have talked about 2-3 quarters. We are also comfortable with [that timeline]."

Commenting on Dena Bank's NPAs, he said, "Some major accounts are now before the NCLT [National Company Law Tribunal] at an advanced stage in the process. We are also looking to sell some assets to asset reconstruction companies."

Earlier in the week, he had indicated that the target for sale of assets to ARCs was ₹2,000 crore-₹3,000 crore. Asked if he had any targets for NPAs for the quarter ending December,



Karnam Sekar

he said, "We aim to reduce GNPA by ₹3,000 crore by end-December." Due to its large NPAs relative to its size, Dena Bank is under a prompt corrective action framework of the RBI, making it ineligible to lend.

"Our first priority is to bring down our NPAs from 22% to 15% by end-March 2019." His next priority, he said, was to raise CASA deposits to 45% by March, 2019 from about 40% now.

Banks track deposits from current accounts and savings accounts as a percentage of total deposits, as they serve as a cheap source of funds. Mr. Sekar, who was earlier Deputy MD at SBI, said there were many lessons learnt during the merger of SBI with its subsidiaries, which could help smooth the process of the current three-way merger.

"Harmonising interest rates, harmonising loan policies, account transfers for common accounts are all areas we can work on." He specified four areas of focus: "HR harmonisation, credit process, bank transactions and technology platforms."

He added that infrastructure spending in the country had increased and with it, private sector investment could see a boost in the fiscal year 2019-20.

## India plans to take tea delegation to China

Major firms, exporters scheduled to take part

INDRANI DUTTA  
KOLKATA

The Union Commerce Ministry is planning to take a tea delegation to China, later this month.

The visit, scheduled to take place for four days beginning October 21, would coincide with the Tea Fair at Xiamen, China, sources said. The Tea Board of India said on its website: "the delegation is tentatively timed in the third week of October, possibly after completion of Tea Fair Xiamen (18-22)."



from the trade and industry.

Past visits by Indian tea industry representatives have mostly been part of Food and Agricultural Organisation meetings.

While India and China are among the top tea producers in the world, until recently there was little common ground between the two as China's estimated output of 2,300 million kg comprised, mainly green tea while India is a predominant black tea producer producing about 1,200 million kg annually.

## 'FISITA meet to spur mobility ecosystem'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

"Disruptive innovation is not about science, products and processes but [about a] disruptive business model itself," said M. M. Murugappan, executive chairman, Murugappa Group.

Delivering the inaugural address at the 37th Edition of the FISITA World Automotive Congress here on Saturday, he said the event would spur the Indian mobility ecosystem.

One of automotive industry's largest global conclaves, held in India for the first time since it began in 1947, the Congress drew more than 1,500 engineers and automotive technology and R&D professionals from more than 32 countries this year, according to a statement.

Speakers talked about the key disruptions in the automotive industry namely, connected, electric, autonomous and shared mobility during the plenary sessions chaired by industry leaders.

## 'Dual control, a problem in banking industry'

Government, RBI must agree on the powers each has over the sector, says Y.V. Reddy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HYDERABAD

Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Y.V. Reddy on Saturday said dual control by the Centre and the RBI is a problem in the banking industry.

Mr. Reddy, who was speaking at an event at the Indian School of Business (ISB) here, said the RBI said that it did not have enough regulatory pow-

ers. The government, however, says that the RBI has enough regulatory powers, he said.

## What is the truth?

"If the regulator and government could not agree and cannot agree, what is the truth? The truth is that there is a problem of dual control. The Narasimhan Committee had recommended 20 years ago to end

this. Till today, it has not ended," he said.

To a query on job creation, he said, quoting from a recent international conference, the likely scenario from a global situation is that "most probably either 20-30% get employed and rest of them cannot be employed because technology will replace [humans]."

There could also be a restric-

tion (in the future) on the number of days one can work in a week.

"Our (in India) strategy should be to maintain external sector balance and generate enough domestic demand and domestic supply... I believe that should be one thing which has to be clear. Not that we don't believe in globalisation, global integration," he said.

## Musk mocking SEC, hedge fund comment add to Tesla's woes

Greenlight says carmaker's troubles resemble those of Lehman Brothers

REUTERS

Shares of Tesla Inc. fell 7% on Friday, as David Einhorn's hedge fund Greenlight Capital slammed the electric carmaker the day after Tesla CEO Elon Musk mocked the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on Twitter.

The sell-off started in morning trading the day after Mr. Musk stirred nerves about a settlement of his securities fraud lawsuit by calling the SEC the "Shortseller Enrichment Commission" on Twitter.

His tweet came hours after a federal judge ordered him and the regulator to justify their settlement.



**Name calling:** Elon Musk stirred nerves by calling the SEC the 'Shortseller Enrichment Commission'. • AFP

"Just want to (sic) that the Shortseller Enrichment Commission is doing incredible work," Mr. Musk, a frequent critic of investors betting against the electric car company,

said in the tweet. "And the name change is so on point!"

## Going short on Tesla

In its quarterly letter, Mr. Greenlight said on Friday

its short position on Tesla was its second-biggest winner in the third quarter. The hedge fund said Mr. Musk has been deceptive and the carmaker's woes resemble those of Lehman Brothers before its collapse.

Tesla shares plunged last week after the SEC accused Mr. Musk, 47, of fraud over "false and misleading" tweets on August 7 that promised to take Tesla private and said funding had been secured.

The lawsuit threatened Tesla and Musk with a long fight that could have undermined the company's operations and ability to raise capital.

**ICAR-NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE ON MEAT**  
Chengicherla, P.B. No.19,  
Boduppal P.O. Hyderabad-500 092  
Tel. Nos.040-29801672, Fax: 040-29804259  
F.No.3-10/2018-19/C&B/NRCM Dated: 06/10/2018

**TENDER NOTICE**

Online bids are invited through CPP Portal for 1. Providing of Manpower Services, 2. Pet Food Processing Line, 3. Rendering Unit, 4. Primary Poultry Processing line. For further details please visit websites: [nrcmeat.icar.gov.in](http://nrcmeat.icar.gov.in) / [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)  
Corrigendum if any will be published in the website(s) only.

Sd/- Asst. Admn. Officer

**RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)  
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India  
CIN: U24232R2011SGC035067 Ph. 0141-2228066, 2228064,  
Website: [www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in), E-mail: [edprmsc@gmail.com](mailto:edprmsc@gmail.com)

F.02(61)RMSC/Proc./Sanitary Pads/NIB-8/2018/410 Dated: 03.10.2018  
Notice Inviting E-Bids

E-Bids are invited up to 1.30 PM of 05.11.2018 for Rate Contract cum Supply and Empanelment of Bellless Sanitary Pads with wings. Details of NIB 08/2018 (UBN No. MSC1819GCCRC00058) may be seen in the Bidding Documents at our office or at the website of State Public Procurement Portal <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>, [www.dipronline.org](http://www.dipronline.org), <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, [www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in) and may be downloaded from here.

Note: If any amendment is carried out in the tender specification and terms and conditions following pre-bid meeting, the same will be uploaded on the Departmental website [www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in), [sppp.raj.nic.in](http://sppp.raj.nic.in) and <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. In case any inconvenience is felt, please contact on telephone number i.e. 0141-2228064

Executive Director (Procurement) RMSC  
Raj. Samwad/C/4477/18-19

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT & MEMBER SECRETARY,**  
**RAJASTHAN MEDICARE RELIEF SOCIETY,**  
**SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR**  
(Sawai Man Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302001)  
(Phone: 0141-2518222 / 2560291, Email: [ms.smshospital@gmail.com](mailto:ms.smshospital@gmail.com))  
No.F (J)SMH/LLMSD/2018-19/216 Dated: 22-09-2018

**AMENDMENT**

Following amendments in Bidding schedule of NIB No. F (J)SMH/LLMSD/2018-19/199 Dated 03-08-2018 (UBN NO MCJ1819GLRC00085) is hereby made:-  
**Bidding Revised Schedule**

Sr. No.	Details	Revised Date	Time
1.	Bidding Document Download End Date & Time	08-10-2018	05-00 p.m.
2.	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	06-08-2018	01-00 p.m.
3.	Bid Submission End Date & Time	08-10-2018	05-00 p.m.
4.	Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	09-10-2018	03-00 p.m.

Rest of the conditions of the Bid shall remain same.

Medical Superintendent-cum-Member Secretary, RMR  
Sawai Man Singh Hospital, Jaipur

DIPRC/13189

**ODISHA HOCKEY**  
**MEN'S WORLD CUP**  
Bhubaneswar 2018

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,**  
**BALLIGUDA FOREST DIVISION,**  
**BALLIGUDA, KANDHAMAL-762103**  
Tel:- 06846-243249, Fax:-06846-243066, e-mail:- [dfo\\_balliguda@yahoo.co.in](mailto:dfo_balliguda@yahoo.co.in)

**TENDER NOTICE NO.BLG-03/2018 Dated. 05.10.2018**

**Name of Work:- Transplantation of 1000 (one thousand) Trees in the Jurisdiction of Balliguda Forest Division, in Kandhamal District of Odisha.**

Sealed tenders are invited from the intending firms for Transplantation of 1000 nos of trees in the jurisdiction of Balliguda Forest Division in Kandhamal District of Odisha. Complete set of tender documents may be obtained from O/O- Divisional Forest Officer, Balliguda Forest Division on payment as details below in any of the working days during office hours from 10.10.2018. Sealed Tenders are required to be submitted on or before **25<sup>th</sup> October, 2018** through Regd.post or speed post. Further key details regarding the tender given below.

**Key Details**

Target of Completion of the work period	3 months from issue of work order.
Cost of Tender Documents and date of sale	Two years of maintenance service from actual completion of tree transplantation work. On sale INR 10,000/- (Ten Thousand) only non-refundable in shape of Demand Draft drawn in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Balliguda Forest Division payable at State bank of India Balliguda main branch. <b>Sale of Document will be from:-10.10.2018</b>
Earnest Money Deposit/Tender Security	Rs 2,00,000/- (Rupees two lakhs) only in shape of Demand Draft drawn in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Balliguda Forest Division payable at State bank of India Balliguda main branch.
Initial Security Deposit	Initial security amount to be deposited by the Lowest bidder amounting to Rs.2,00,000/- (Two lakh) only in shape of Demand Draft drawn in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Balliguda Forest Division payable at State bank of India Balliguda main branch (at the time of agreement).
Date and time of Submission of Tender	Sealed tenders will be received in the Office of D.F.O. Balliguda Division only through Registered post/Speed Post or by hand on or before 25 <sup>th</sup> October, 2018. The authority will not be responsible for any postal delay.
Date and time of Opening of Tender	The sealed tenders shall be opened on 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 10.30 AM in the Office Chamber of D.F.O. Balliguda Division at Balliguda.
Availability of Tender documents	The Tender documents will be available in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer on the working days from 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. during the office hours. After the office hours no tender document will be entertained.

Sd/-  
**Divisional Forest Officer,**  
**Balliguda Forest Division.**

87-MM:  
08047/11/0001/1819



# From Stanfords to Blossom

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

The world is out there in Stanfords at three levels. Europe at the top and India lumped together with Australia at the bottom. The maps are everywhere, so are the travel books and guides, to Timbuktu if you please. Globes are there too, and a whole lot of things that one would ‘thoughtfully’ pick up, walking out of the store with a lighter wallet but ready to adventure – magnifying glasses, waterproof pouches, and yes, RFID-tagged wallets, the last just in case an alligator in the Amazon picks your pocket and makes off with it.

Walking into Stanford makes the arthritic and vision-impaired feel like intrepid explorers, eager to traverse the world’s wilder parts, map in one hand and a well-thumbed guide in the other. There is a map I am searching for, a large detailed one of India. I zero in on two, one, by Marco Polo, that promises exotic adventure, and another published in Germany, which looks more serious and capable of holding its own in the rain without tearing, even promising to take a hot spill in its stride. Unable to make up my mind, I leave, but not before making an abortive bid to use the toilet, for one has to buy something at the coffee shop to get the code to open its vault of a door.

I walk out, on to a hot London street, an unfulfilled Tintin ill-equipped to go after the Yeti, with a merciless July sun beating down on me, making 26 feel like 40. I segued from geography and adventure to crime, fiction and heartache at Foyles, all five floors of it and much kinder to those who’d like to access the toilet for free. Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* is piled high in one corner, warmly recommended by Foyles itself, along with a zillion other books that hug its walls.

Across the world, bookshops are downing their shutters, even in London, but that’s not the impression one gets in the big ones that are still standing, Foyles of course, but Waterstones as well, teaming with bibliophiles. One can always step into Hatchards, in the same place in Piccadilly after more than 200 years.

Back home in Bengaluru it is a relief to note that bookshops are thriving though some have downed their shutters – the iconic Premier some time back, the Strand more recently. There is Blossoms to step into; two in fact, one on either side of a now renovated Church Street, and Bookworm stands close by as do a few others, with efficient staff who get you the book you want in the flick of an eye.

The seductive lure of the bookshop will never go, for it is the most sublime of experiences a city can offer and which no online experience can ever hope to replicate. You almost never leave a bookshop, in London or Bengaluru or anywhere else, only with the book you have come for. Just as you go to the counter to pay for the one you hold, some mysterious forces hurries you back inside to pick another you had reluctantly left behind, and then you linger, “what the heck?” only to defiantly grab a few more.

Having been seduced by the bookshop, I own more books than I can ever hope to read.

udaybalakrishnan@gmail.com

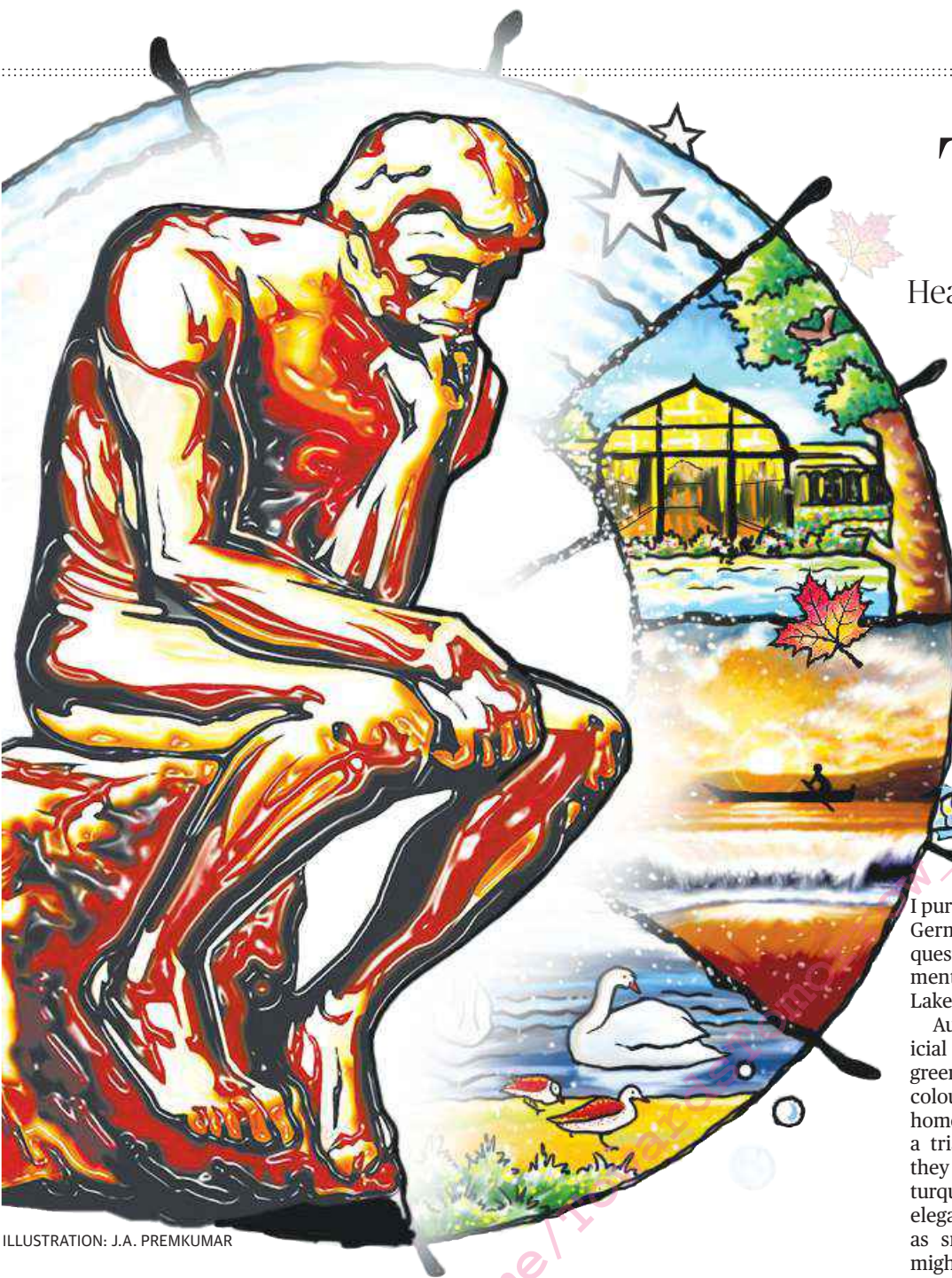


ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

# That irresistible itch, and the scratch to smother it

NIKHIL JAIASHWANI

Perhaps no other physical sensation can compete with an itch in demanding immediate attention – through a scratch. Where there is an itch, there will be a scratch.

“Happiness is having a scratch for every itch,” wrote Ogden Nash. What a gem! In one of his comic pieces, Charlie Chaplin, while sleeping with his shoes on, kept on scratching the sole of his shoe involuntarily, and continued to sleep with a sense of smug satisfaction.

Although one instantly needs to scratch to relieve an itch, people have different styles to deal with their itching sensations. All this hinges on their upbringing.

The first and foremost is performed universally at the back of the head, when a student or a guilty husband is foxed by the question the teacher or wife would ask, when they know the answers themselves.

Before today’s technology that enables money to be electronically transferred at the drop of a hat, banking instruments such as cheques and de-

mand drafts retained pride of place, and the simplest among them was the money order. Some cunning postmen bringing a money order, after surrendering the cash craftily including small denomination notes, used to scratch the nape of their neck giving more than a hint about his commission.

If you asked any man whether he had had a shave, his quick reaction would be to place his hand on his cheeks and chin, followed by an investigative scratch.

In order to know what

amount of pleasure an animal derives out of scratching, you should pay heed to a dog. Its paw will come to its rescue and do the needful. Resting on its haunches, it would raise one of the forelegs in a yogic posture, and scratch the spot that felt the sensation. The depth of canine expressions of satisfaction would vary from dog to dog and on the basis of the time and place. Once the session is over, the dog would stand up and turn in small circles, wagging the tail in self-adulation.

One can choose to scratch

just the surface when one is busy but has a bout of itching. No book on itching etiquette will suggest a rash scratch in polite company, especially in the presence of ladies.

Smothering your itch with one finger is a skill. Many newsmen who perform before TV cameras, may do it when they know that Camera No. 1 is not on, and the voice-over footage is streaming. I wonder if we have any spray available in the market to nip the itch in the bud when the tip of the nose and the adjoining areas itch.

In the catagory of the performing artistes I admire the Kathakali performers, who, having spent hours for the make-up, have to be immune to calls for a scratch on the face during a spirited performance.

A scratch is not always a solution for an itch. When the palms of those who look for bribe money itches, a scratch will not do. Rather, in order to receive quick service, only a proverbial greasing of the palm will relieve the figurative itch.

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# Destiny on a tiny mobile phone screen

With the device in hand, many users are turning daredevils

THOMAS PAUL

It was a busy workday when I walked along the footpath, and noticed most of the pedestrians were plugged into earphones, or were checking mobile phones. I turned around for some reason and saw, a little behind me, a young man walking briskly in my direction, his head bent over a mobile screen.

I could see that he was heading directly towards a No Parking signboard pole on the edge of the footpath, near where I stood. Intent on social media on his mobile screen, he seemed unmindful of an impending collision. Unless he had eyes on top of his head, he was going to walk into the pole. I paused and eagerly awaited developments. The sound of his skull meeting the signboard pole should be interesting – possibly it might sound like a cloth-covered bell

– and might register in the high note of *pa*, (as in *sa, re, ga, ma, pa*), if his hair didn’t further muffle the sound by coming between his forehead and the pole.

I also got ready to step up to him and deliver a small speech about the need to look where he was going and so on. Guys like us don’t get much opportunity for this kind of lecturing. Imagine my disappointment when this surfer adroitly side-stepped the pole and, with his bemused smile intact, continued on his way, neither slowing down nor lifting his head. The only explanation is that his peripheral vision was very evolved. This is also true of city-bred dogs weaving expertly through traffic; otherwise they would be extinct by now.

I don’t trust peripheral vision. I have to see where I’m going. The one time I tried walking while surfing Facebook led

to my stepping on dog-turd within 15 yards of my attempt.

A gulf divides uni-tasking guys like me and the multi-tasking, quick-reflex, peripheral-visioned, ambidextrous guys who can ride a bike with one hand while holding something wobbly on the other, and locking down a slippery mobile phone between sweaty cheek and shoulder, overtaking everyone in traffic, and shouting out profanities at errant L-board drivers, and still managing to continue their mobile phone conversation uninterrupted. They may not live long, but they have a good time while they do.

The advice about not driving while speaking on the mobile is redundant. In fact, it is a macho thing to neither slow down nor get to a side when the mobile rings. A two-wheeler rider’s hair-trigger response to a ringing mobile (furiously fishing in



the pockets, extracting the mobile, checking the screen, showing it through the helmet gap near the ear) has to be executed in the middle of the road, while his bike wobbles and causes others coming behind to wobble, too, taking evasive action.

Though it has been my lifelong desire to see at least one fellow dropping his mobile from his cheek-shoulder hold, I have

never seen or heard of such a thing happening. Perhaps there’s a conspiracy by mobile phone companies to smother such news reports. Theoretically, mobile-phone speaking riders should be getting killed by the truckload, and offering up their organs for harvest. But it’s the safe-rider who breaks a leg while getting out of the way of the mobile-speaking speed-

fiend who sizzles through dense traffic while other vehicles miss him by a hair’s breadth, like James Bond on escape mode.

Our cities are highly networked, and everyone is in constant communication with one another, while constantly and furiously on the move. The mobile phone enables dare-devilry in movement while communicating – a terrific combination for raising blood pressure.

This urge to communicate non-stop and our inability to slow down has come about alongside the mobile phone explosion. We speak because we have the device on hand. Whether all this communication and racing around has made for a better life experience, our social psychologists may have to figure out.

To be on the safe side, there is a strong case for sitting down and shutting up once in a while.

sagitex@gmail.com

# Through the birth and rebirth cycle all the way

How a child can teach you a multitude of things and rekindle your hidden fears or favourites of the past

HARINI RAGHAVAN

Childbirth changes a woman’s life. The physical body undergoes enormous changes and even the taste buds evolve; those that one relished in the past, one may detest. The mind goes through a multitude of emotions and one experiences varied feelings.

A child can teach you a multitude of things and rekindle your hidden fears or favourites of the past. We tend to park our inhibitions and is ready to play with our children that may even project us as silly.

This is applicable to both the parents. My husband, who was always scared of going on a rollercoaster, had to shed his fears and go along with our little girl, who never

missed a single ride. Despite his honest confessions of disliking the heights, the pep talk that came from her did help him muster his courage to sit next to her. While the two clung together on a twin-seater, I had to ride alone.

I rediscovered myself in many ways and it was a strange feeling to unveil a quality that I never knew I possessed. My daughter would never sleep without a bedtime story. Ever since she was two, I had managed to cook up my own stories and in the process of building the story answered to her critical questions. Be it soft hidden-moral stories, mythological stories of Krishna or the Panchatantra, those curious eyes always gleamed at me, forever signalling to hear her question.

I realised that it wasn’t easy to convince her that the earth sank into the ocean when the wild boar, an *avatar* of Vishnu, came to save the earth. She would retort quickly, how the earth can sink in the ocean when the ocean is a



part of the earth itself. It was a constant challenge to outperform every time. I cannot afford to wind up with an unconvincing story as she will be living in that magical world in her dreams.

Many a time she would wake up in sleep or in the morning recalling the story. The characters meld in her memory and never fade.

I know every day she waits snuggled in her bed for the bedtime story. As she grew up I tried to induce a new routine of reading story books. Nonetheless, when we close the book, she would tell me to begin my own story. I know she loves to drift into that magical world with the characters. I better not make it mundane and insignificant. It became a constant challenge and an en-

deavour that I embraced as a challenge. Only to realise that I am also capable of creating and reciting children’s stories.

She doesn’t mind the hidden morals in the story as I constantly infuse them in every story of mine. Some days when I am tired, I tend to halt and promise her to continue. She eagerly awaits the next night and the promise is not forgotten.

She also enjoys the themeless and never-ending stories when I had drifted so much to be able to conclude. It is my constant attempt to perform better every night, and in all this process I have discovered my abilities. I have no doubt that it’s a rebirth post having a child.

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VIDULA CHOPRA RASTOGI

### The shawarma spectacle

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SIRUS J. LIBEIRO

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Meet the Dehradun duo  
whose life and art is all about  
their beloved Uttarakhand

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Sir/Madam, if you ask youths  
what is their life's dream, they'll  
say, can you put it on Facebook?

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I need to feel the import of words,  
the flow of the metre, the weight  
of a consonant: Aruna Sairam

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COVER



## It takes a VILLAGE

It all started with a jam factory. Now, this district in Himachal Pradesh shows off development stats that again prove why empowered women make for an empowered country

BY RAKSHA KUMAR

Everyone in the village sneaks a glance when Upasana Kumari drives her White Maruti 800 to work. "Driving a car is intoxicating," says Kumari. A winding, muddy, single lane road that starts from the edge of the hillock where Kumari's house is, passes in front of the jam factory, approximately 4 km away.

For the 15 minutes that she drives, Kumari confesses that she feels like a woman with wings. Free to fly away.

Kumari is 27 years old has a bachelor's degree in Information Technology from a college in Rajgarh, the closest town, as well as a long-distance diploma in IT services. She works at the Bhuiira Jam Factory as an office administrator.

The factory looms large in the lives of Bhuiira's women. Located in Sirmour district on the border of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the sparsely populated Bhuiira village has no more than 135 families on its 980 acres.

Each hillock has just one or two houses. They are surrounded by fruit trees and flowering plants that grow on shallow terraces carved out to limit soil erosion during untimely rains and landslides. Less than 300 women live in the village. And as in other parts of the country, women in Bhuiira too shoulder most of the emotional and household labour in their family, which goes largely unaccounted.

### Jobs and modernity

On the warm September evening I am in Bhuiira, 11 members of Kumari's family are celebrating their patriarch's birthday with home-made cake. Immediately after returning from eight hours of work at the factory, Kumari makes sugary tea to wash down the cake. "I made the cake too, before I left for work," she smiles.

Kumari has a three-year-old child, works hard at the factory, and cares for her parents-in-law. It's a lot to do. Better education has meant more jobs, but it has also meant that Bhuiira's women have to be 'superwomen' who do it all.

Interestingly, though, a social change is also germinating in Bhuiira. The women are coping with the higher workload by creating vastly more flexible family and community structures. And they are simultaneously pushing towards modernity much faster than their neighbours. Their lives hold interesting lessons for the rest of the country.

A 2015 World Bank Group study titled 'Scaling the Heights: Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development in Himachal Pradesh' reads: "We are often asked: 'what does social inclusion and sustainable development look like?' While the question really doesn't have a clear answer, because it is so context-specific, we use Himachal Pradesh as something of a benchmark."

### Someone at home

Social inclusion is impossible without female literacy and employment. In Bhuiira, female literacy rate has gone up by 11% in the past decade as opposed to a 3% increase in male literacy. Higher literacy rates mean greater employment opportunities outside the household. To compensate for this, work within the house is shared by the other women in the family.

Take, for instance, Vidya Tomar, the anganwadi teacher at Bhuiira. A B.A. degree got Tomar the anganwadi job 11 years ago. She still has to cook breakfast and lunch, but the other household chores are handled by her stay-at-home sister-in-law.

In many villages of Himachal Pradesh, water still needs to be carried uphill in buckets, cows and buffaloes

**Female literacy rate has gone up by 11% in the past decade as opposed to a 3% increase in male literacy**

have to be taken for grazing to the higher slopes, and vegetables fetched from fields many hillocks away. "Maintaining a household is a full-time job," says Tomar. "When we cook, we cook for not less than 10 people."

Tomar's family encouraged her to take a job when she got her degree, and compensated by taking on some of her household burden. "If my sister-in-law did not manage the work at home, I could not be out here with the security of a government job," she says, as she prepares the children at the anganwadi to pose for a picture. She is grateful that her sons are being brought up by her sister-in-law.

According to Kumari, this is how Bhuiira differs from cities. "We are employed because there is someone at

home," she says. "We help each other with the household chores."

The effects of female employment on gender equality now appear to be trickling down to the next generation. Tomar's two sons help their aunt before going to school in the morning. At 13 and 16, they are put to task to tending the cattle, cooking and cleaning.

Unlike other parts of Himachal Pradesh, Sirmour, located in its southern reaches, is not driven solely by tourism. Since the local population does not have to constantly cater to the demands of increasing numbers of people from metropolises, they chart their own paths towards development and modernity.

### The English connection

Until 20 years ago, Bhuiira was as obscure as any Himachali village. In 1999, a British woman, Linnet Mushran, decided to make and sell jams from the fruit grown locally. Today, Bhuiira Jam Factory produces up to 250 tonnes of jams and preserves a year, employing only local women. There are 10 permanent employees, and up to 100 women are employed during peak season when production increases.

Being part of a women-only enterprise changes the perspective of the village women significantly. "We understand each other's problems well," says Sarita Devi, who has worked at the factory since its founding.

From their salaries, the women contribute to a fund every month. Anyone in need of urgent finances can withdraw from it at a small interest. "It's our own chit fund," says Sarita Devi.

The jams are sold to high-profile brands such as Fabindia, Devans, a popular coffee shop in Delhi's posh Khan Market, and L'Opera, a French patisserie. In many ways, the jam factory can be credited with ushering in modernity into an otherwise quaint village. The jams themselves are made in the old-fashioned, labour-intensive way, with minimal use of machinery. Sorting the fruit, washing, cutting and cooking is done by hand.

Since agriculture is still the mainstay of this largely rural economy, small industries like the jam factory, which integrate farm produce into the economic chain, work well. All the fruits used for the jams are bought from local farmers; only certain citrus fruits are bought from outside.

Sirmour, boosted as it is by floriculture



**A sweet journey** (From top) The all-woman team at Bhuiira Jam Factory; Kamla Devi, the village Pradhan, who oversees five villages; ripe fruit is plucked and washed with care; the preserves are checked for quality and sealed in glass bottles. AKHILESH KUMAR

ture and fruit production, has better human development indices, a better sex ratio, and higher income levels. It contrasts with districts like Chamba, in northern Himachal, which falls in the 'most backward districts' list.

Districts like Sirmour are responsible for the high rank Himachal Pradesh enjoys in government and non-government assessments like the 2011 Indian Human Development Report which ranked the State third after Kerala and Delhi.

### Second after Sikkim

"In 2011-12, about 63% of rural women in Himachal Pradesh reported themselves as employed," reads the World Bank Study Report. "This places Himachal Pradesh second in female labour force participation in the country, after Sikkim, and significantly above the all-India average of 27%."

Kamla Devi is the head of the village council. As Pradhan, she oversees five villages, including Bhuiira. "In my younger days, I could not have imagined that a woman would be Pradhan," says Kamla Devi. Three years ago, when Kamla Devi, a widow, won the Panchayat elections, Bhuiira was reserved for female candidates.

However, the next time, she hopes to win even if Bhuiira is not a reserved constituency. "People recognise that women are better administrators. We approach our work with a degree of sensitivity that men don't," she says.

Kamla Devi oversees several government programmes in the five villages she runs. And these seem to be working well in Bhuiira and neighbouring villages. Whether such programmes ensured higher female employment rates or whether literate women demanded such programmes is uncertain for now.

**Sarita Devi smiles with satisfaction. "See! There are more skirts than pants," she says**

One programme trains teenage girls in handicrafts and tailoring. Every day at 11 a.m., several such girls in navy blue salwar kameez hurry to the Panchayat Bhawan in Bhuiira. Giggling and excited, they pull out portable sewing machines and begin sewing. "We made our own kurtas last month," says 17-year-old Payal Kumari. "A qualified teacher comes to teach the girls, who are enthusiastic to learn. We have all the supplies such as a sewing machine, threads and the like," says Kamla Devi.

The Panchayat building shares a wall with the only primary school of Bhuiira. Sitting in rows chanting the multiplication tables, students keep glancing at a large clock on the wall. It will be lunch-time soon.

When the children run out, through the playground and towards a hall where lunch is served, Sarita Devi smiles with satisfaction. "See! There are more skirts than pants," she says. Sarita Devi managed to study till Class XII before she was married into a Bhuiira family. With no avenues for higher studies, she signed up for a distance learning programme in computer studies from Karnataka University. "I love to study," she says.

Sarita's 22-year-old daughter had to drop out of school after Class XII because she had a hearing problem. Now, she learns sewing at the Panchayat. Is Sarita Devi worrying about her daughter's marriage yet? No, she smiles. "She might like someone, why should I dictate terms in her life?"

Upasana Kumari talks about how she wants to raise her son responsibly, paying attention to how he behaves with girls and imbibing in him a sense of gender equality.

Ranjita Punder lives in Bhuiira and takes a bus from the village to the factory. Like the other women of Bhuiira, her thinking too has evolved dramatically. "I began my silent revolution towards gender equality 14 years ago," she says.

Two rickety buses ply the snake-like mountain road connecting Bhuiira village to Rajgarh town. One at 8 a.m. and another at 5 p.m. From Monday to Saturday, Punder gets off the bus at 8 a.m. in front of the jam factory where she has worked for the past 14 years.

"I used to work here before my husband succumbed to cancer. And I continue to work here," she says. Unlike Kumari, Punder's earning from the factory contributes largely to running her household. Her two sons and brother-in-law are the men in her family. "They share the burden of domestic labour."

"When women earn, men should do the household chores," says Punder. "This ensures that balance is maintained." In a tiny corner of Himachal Pradesh, the old rules are being rewritten.

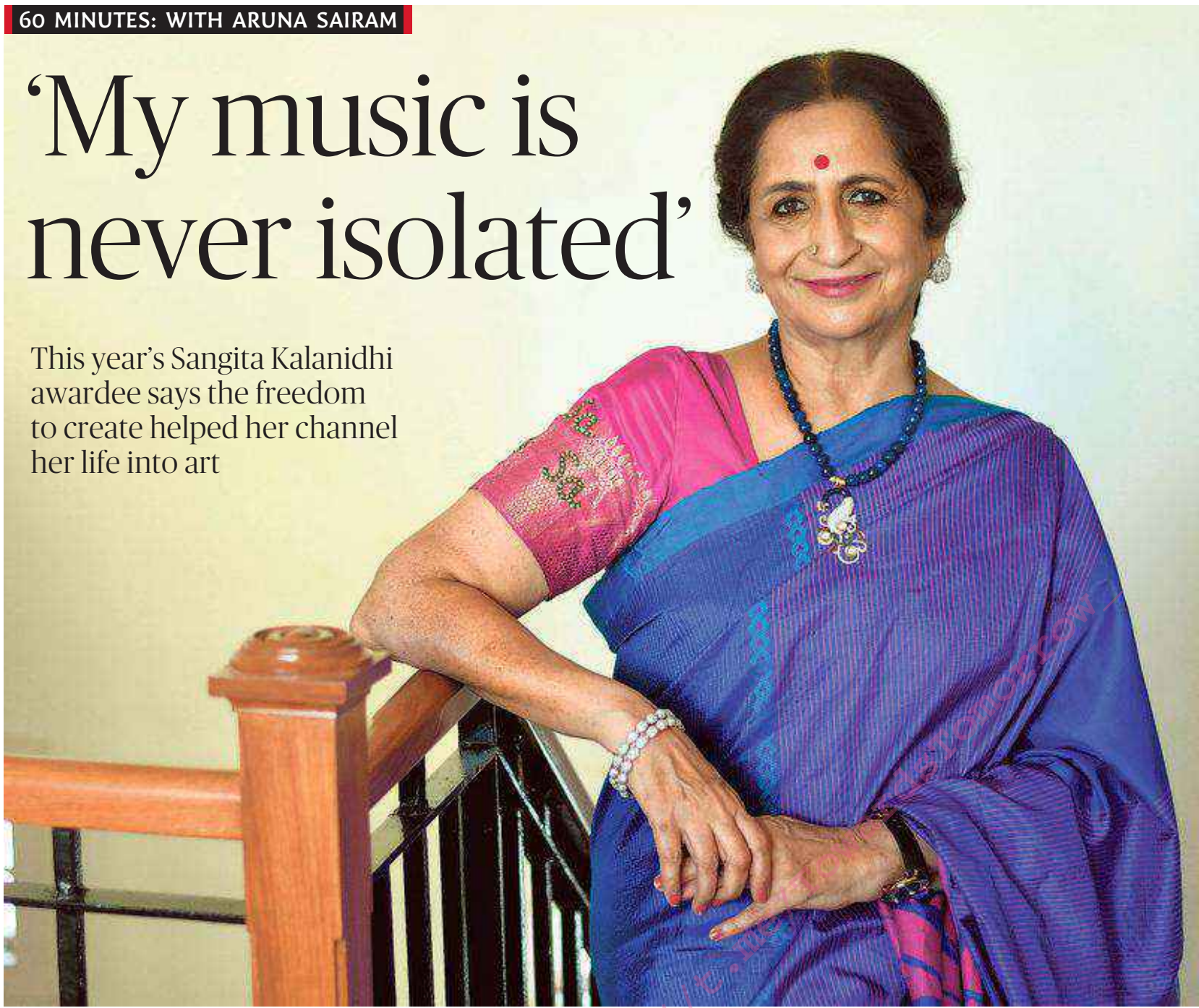
The freelance writer focuses on human rights and politics.



60 MINUTES: WITH ARUNA SAIRAM

# ‘My music is never isolated’

This year’s Sangita Kalanidhi awardee says the freedom to create helped her channel her life into art



BY ANAND VENKATESWARAN

Mantralayam, Aruna Sairam’s residence, looks like a cheerfully resolute chunk of butter in the Chennai heat. Step in and a framed four-ft line-art painting of Krishna greets you in the drawing room. The décor is tasteful, traditional elegance. Much wood, understated colour.

Sairam calls out a greeting in her unmistakable tenor. She is polite, and an easy conversationalist. She inquires after a common acquaintance, requests a little time to prepare for the photo session, offers coffee, and disappears for a bit. After the photographer arrives, she glides back in, resplendent in a blue saree. “I picked something a little more contemporary. Not my usual Kanjeevaram,” she says. The lensman loves it and begins to click away. She is gracious, and endearingly amenable.

Padma Shri Aruna Sairam has been selected for the Sangita Kalanidhi award, the highest recognition in Carnatic music, this year. It is an interesting

and revealing choice by the century-old Music Academy, which has often been criticised for its parochialism.

This year’s award not only thrusts the Academy into refreshing territory, it is a thumping validation of Sairam’s prodigious musical spectrum. Apart from her classical Carnatic core, she has managed to embrace various other genres of music, including the Marathi *abhang* and the *bhajan*. She has also, through highly selective collaborations, taken her art global without any loss in meaning or melody. The journey has been long and far from conventional.

“On my first trip abroad, to Germany. That’s when I knew music was my

path,” Sairam says. “By some stroke of providence, I was chosen as a visiting professor in a conservatory. Thanks to my upbringing, I had an intimate understanding of the works of Bach, Beethoven and Mozart, but to my surprise, I found the musicians there rather insular and lacking in curiosity. The whole experience held a mirror to my own musical legacy. ‘My parents and my masters had given me so much. What the hell was I doing with it all,’ I thought to myself.”

## Singing walls

That maiden trip to Germany was in 1987. Sairam was a married 35-year-old and a mother of two then. This was an unusually late start, considering most artists take the plunge when barely in their teens.

Sairam’s parents filled their modest 650 sq.ft. apartment in Mumbai with a love for music, and it became a roost for the finest artists of the time.

The walls in those railway quarters might still hold echoes of Ustad Amir Khan, Thanjavur Shankara Iyer, T.R.

- Born in Mumbai, her mother Rajalakshmi Sethuraman was her first Carnatic music teacher
- She performed her first full-length solo concert in Mumbai at the age of 14
- Her guru, T. Brinda, trained her in the style of her own mentor, Veena Dhanammal
- German voice expert Eugene Rabine helped her discover a new voice
- She is the recipient of the Padma Shri and the U.S. Congress Proclamation of Excellence

Mahalingam, Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, and Madurai Mani Iyer. And not just musicians. The legendary danseuse Balasaraswati, towering scholars like K.V. Jagannathan, Harikatha expert Embar Vijayaraghavachariar, Pulavar Keeran, Bhagavatam exponent Sukha Brahman, and many others frequented their home. “To love one art form is great,

**More than the artist** ‘This is an introverted art. It’s niche,’ says Aruna Sairam. R. RAVINDRAN

but to be able to appreciate another and find those lateral connections, is priceless. I need to feel the import of the words, the flow of the metre, the weight of a consonant. My music is never isolated,” Sairam says.

## All of one’s being

She credits her gurus – beginning with her mother, and the train of artists and mentors who taught her – for not just the technical instruction, but for broader lessons that sweetened life off stage. “Brindamma (T. Brinda) taught me to absorb music with all of my being. There were no teaching aids, no notes. We were riveted to her, we didn’t want to lose even a drop of that fountain of music. I represent her school of music, but I also hope I have absorbed her inimitable decorum.” When Brinda was unavailable, S. Ramachandran kept Sairam’s tutelage afloat. “He gave me the courage to handle ‘apoorva’ or unusual ragas, which give artists the jitters,” Sairam says.

At one point, life became overwhelming. Her mother had passed away, ‘Brindamma’ had stopped teaching, and she was herself a mother burdened with unending responsibilities. It was then that A.S. Mani came into her life. “According to the world, I was fine, but I was struggling to find purpose. He helped find my identity – musical and otherwise,” Sairam says. ‘You are not giving me anything new,’ he said. It stung. She asked him to show what more meant. He sang and she wept. A new door had opened.

**There is one pitfall – the self-absorption of scholarship. I was no exception’**

“I was anchored by solid compositions, technical superiority. But Mani mama unlocked the one thing I was missing – open-ended creativity. He intuited what I needed, and gently fed it to me, via lessons, conversations, letters.”

Years later, when she had begun performing, K.S. Narayanaswamy, another great musician, took her under his wing. Finishing school, if you will. “What I learned from him was the logic behind the magical oscillations, or *gamaks*, that typify Indian music. Until then, I didn’t understand why the Carnatic *gamak* swung quite so much. He showed me that the range of micro notes in a *gamak* are defined by the distance between one note and the other. He would make me ‘draw’ the *gamaks* on paper. I had heard oscillations all my life, but now I began to see them.” She illustrates this with an unforgettable snippet of Todi.

Music is as much science as it is art. And the trip into its technical intricacies can be intoxicating. “But there is one pitfall – the self-absorption of scholarship. I was no exception. This was the fi-

nal hurdle, the veil that impeded my expression. My job, having learnt all this, I realised, was to share it with openness and humility. When I finally learned this, I began to fly.”

“I am overcome by gratitude for my parents and my gurus, who never pushed me to perform. As a student, my innate creativity remained unbridled and as a performer, I was able to channelise the vicissitudes of life into my art,” she says.

There was a time when genres like *abhang* were unacceptable in the South Indian performance format. Then, there are her cross-cultural collaborations. The format is fraught with pitfalls, and criticism that it dilutes the classical purity of the artist. “Only if you overdo it,” Sairam says. “This isn’t new, but when you experience another music system, you become more appreciative of the wealth of your own. The secret isn’t compartmentalisation as much as it is balance. For every collaboration I work on, there is a counterweight of hundreds of hours of classical training and performances.”

## A thing of beauty

Collaboration itself is a thing of beauty, and can seem deceptively simple, Sairam says. Content drives the process, and melody is the touchstone. “My work with Dominique Vellard (an authority on Gregorian and Medieval song), for instance. I’d sing a *Maam pahi meenambike* in Kalyani, and he would take off with *Ave, vergene gaudente*, a hymn on the virgin mother. Content. Now, Dominique can’t alter the melody for this composition. I, on the other hand, can choose to sing *Maampahi...* in Kalyani, Keeravani or Todi. Where I have freedom, I toe his line and where my art is inflexible, he makes room for me.”

The whole thing is backed by rigorous rehearsal. “Only when you’ve put in work can you stand your ground while having a musical conversation,” Sairam says.

This ‘work’ that goes into building a performance has become a quintessential part of Sairam’s journey.

“This is an introverted art. It’s niche. If we are to ever hold and grow an audience, we must care about them, and build layers of appeal and expertise into it. This cannot be done by the artist alone, whose job it is to disappear within herself during a performance. It needs craftsmen who can work on how it looks and sounds, how it is produced and distributed; and coaches who will help calibrate a performance and bring it all together,” Sairam says.

The Sangita Kalanidhi is a happy validation of Sairam’s life and struggles, but “it also entails an important responsibility – to record, document, and share,” she points out. More important, the award bequeaths her with an unintended legacy – the classical fan’s intolerance to eclecticism. Sairam has not been immune to misdirected fan rage, but if anyone can ride that wave with ease, it is she.

The former journalist now works as a content consultant in fintech and crypto-economics.

INSIDE INDIA

# Did you eat your nettles?

Two Dehradun women use vibrant art and social media to celebrate all things Uttarakhand

BY ARPITA CHAKRABARTY

The walls are brightly coloured and plastered with portraits of all things Uttarakhand – women with enormous nose rings, men in *topis*, Himalayan quails, local dishes like kachnar ki sabzi (a delicacy made of Bauhinia flowers). It’s a single room but full of light and laughter.

I am at Bhuli, a Dehradun-based start up, which describes itself as ‘Design x Nutrition for social good,’ started by Tanya Kotnala and Tanya Singh, a designer and nutritionist, respectively.

As part of one of their most recent campaigns, the duo created posters for World Breastfeeding Week, which are now up on the walls of 19,000 anganwadi centres across Uttarakhand’s rugged landscape.

Colourful and attractive, and packed with useful information on nutrition, the posters, which also extend to social media, illustrate the importance of breastfeeding, detailing little things like the position of the mother’s pillow, the need for flexible work timings for lactating mothers, and how family members and colleagues can help mothers ‘breastfeed any time and anywhere’. The campaign also calls out unscientific practices such as the practice of feeding newborns honey or curd or water.

Visually, there are running themes: the characters all wear traditional clothes, jewellery and headgear and the landscape is recognisably local and rural. “This medium of communication is more effective than regular how-to manuals for a sensitive issue such as this,” says Kotnala. “It’s something your eyes can’t miss.”

“Children’s caregivers in rural Uttarakhand are often semi-literate. So to start a conversation with them on such a crucial subject, it made sense to have characters and mediums that they could relate to and are familiar with,” says Singh.

Bhuli means ‘little sister’ in Garhwali and Kotnala and Singh’s social enterprise wants to zoom in on the unmapped faces of Uttarakhand.

## Bilingual messages

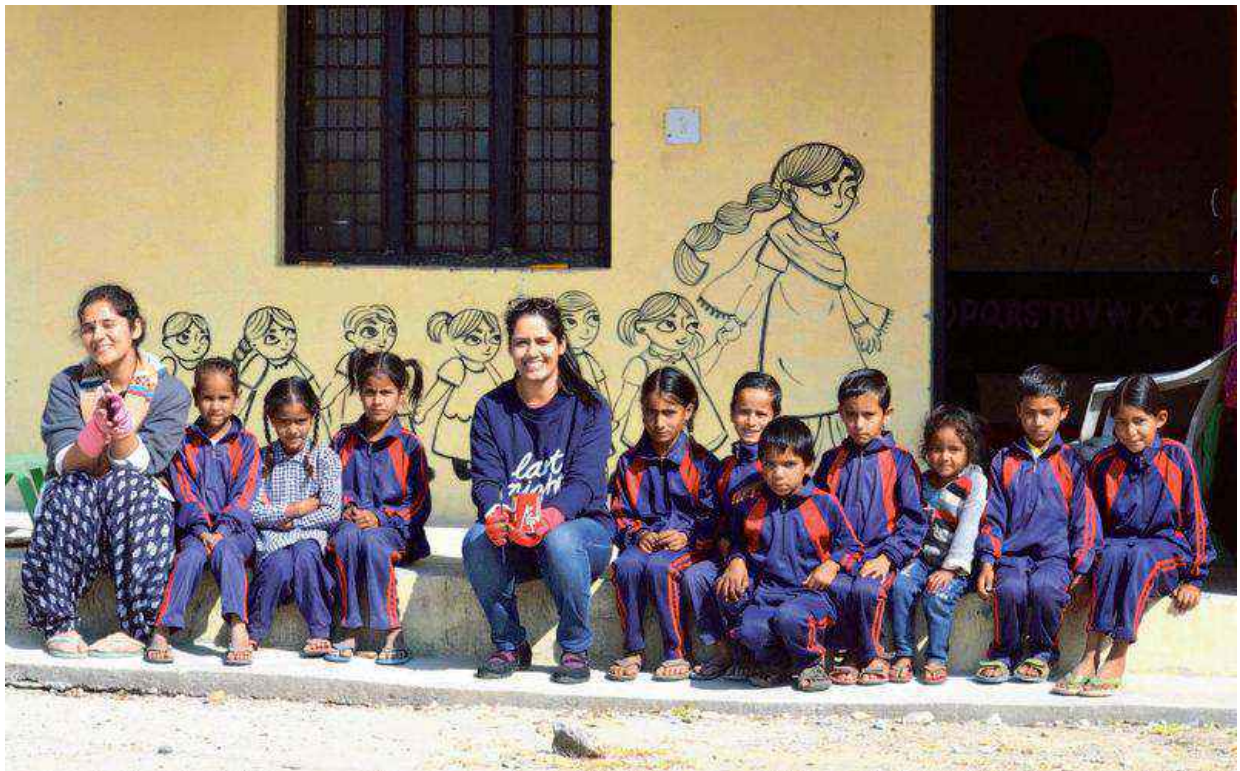
Bhuli’s social media pages are in English, but their posters and booklets are in Hindi. The team has also designed illustrated placards on anaemia for adolescent girls. The next campaign, they say, will be on the importance of hand hygiene and menstrual hygiene.

Kotnala and Singh say Bhuli is a ‘woman-centric’ page. In August 2017, when the Supreme Court struck down triple talaq, Bhuli celebrated the verdict with a sketch of Muslim women and girls in blue dresses raising their hands in victory.

## One sketch at a time

But Bhuli does more than social campaigns. Its Instagram and Facebook pages have been unveiling the unexplored foods, arts and crafts of Uttarakhand,

**Bhuli also documents traditional attire: Kumaoni, Garhwali, Tharu, Bhotiya, Gorkha, Tibetan – using the folk art of Aipan**



Colourful campaigns Tanya Kotnala and Tanya Singh at a school in Uttarakhand, and (right) artwork by them. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

one sketch at a time. Take, for example, kandali ki saag, a dish made from stinging nettle, a speciality in the hill State. There’s no pahadi who’s not been stung by the nettle, known locally as *bicchu ghaas* or scorpion plant. It grows all over the hills and children are routinely threatened with *bicchu ghaas* if they don’t fall in line.

“But the stinging nettle is full of medicinal properties. A nettle dish is not only delicious, it helps treat several ailments. It’s routine food in

Uttarakhand,” says Singh. “Uttarakhand is a storehouse of super foods, like amaranth seeds, buckwheat and barnyard millet. They are seasonal and full of flavour. They are very popular in the West now, but they have been part of our food culture for ages. We need to bring back our local delicacies,” she adds.

## Food for thought

The Bhuli women make sure they sample bhaang ki chutney, jhangora ki kheer, lingad ki sabzi and makai ki

kheer before posting the recipes online for their 16,000-strong following.

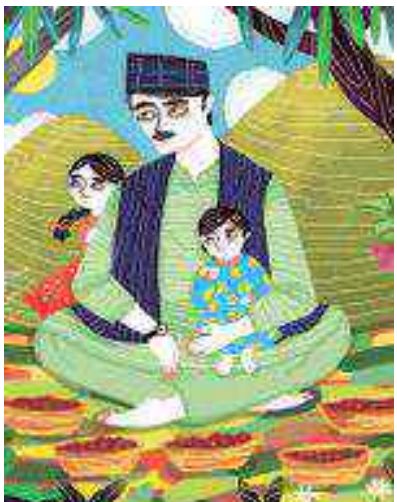
Bhuli also documents traditional attire: Kumaoni, Garhwali, Tharu, Bhotiya, Gorkha, Tibetan – using the folk art of Aipan.

From snow leopards and the Chipko movement to their beloved goddess Nanda Devi, Bhuli basically celebrates the region.

The Uttarakhand-based journalist explores the lives of those who walk the mountains.



**Visually, there are running themes: the characters wear traditional clothes, jewellery and headgear, and the landscape is local**







FIELD NOTES

# Nun so powerful

Can the Bishop Mulakkal case force the powerful and patriarchal Catholic church to change its ways?

BY MINI MURINGATHERI

Nestled between coconut, yam and tapioca groves on one side and a rubber estate on the other, the convent at Karakkamala, in the high ranges of Wayanad, looks straight out of a picture postcard. Emerging from the spartan building, Sr. Lucy Kalappura instantly puts you at ease with her genial mien and smile. But behind the affable exterior is a woman of iron will, which becomes evident the moment she begins to speak about the church and about society.

The seventh of 11 children of a well-to-do farmer family in Karikkottakkari, Sr. Lucy is bold, articulate and does not mince her words; qualities that have put her in direct conflict with the authorities of her church. She became a nun under the Franciscan Clarist Congregation in 1985 and has since waged a battle against congregation and church on various points of principle. “I do what I strongly believe is right,” she says.

### Historic protest

Sr. Lucy hit the headlines when she stood in solidarity with the protest held by the Missionaries of Jesus nuns in Kochi, demanding the arrest of Bishop Franco Mulakkal, who was accused of raping a nun from his order. The historic protest has challenged not just the authority of the Catholic church, but also its deep-rooted patriarchal values. At no point in the history of the Syro-Mala-

**Priests are trained to be administrators, orators and managers; while nuns are taught to be obedient and service-oriented**

bar Catholic faith in the country, which claims the apostolic legacy of St. Thomas, have nuns taken to the streets seeking justice, never mind in as disturbing a case as that of an alleged rape committed by a bishop. The office-bearers of the church, the nuns and priests are brought up on the canon of ‘Infallibility of the Church’ – the Church is never wrong.

“I consider my presence in the agitation very important. No one from the 50,000-strong nun community came to support them. They knocked on every door of the church. The powerful patriarchy used every power to silence them. Even their congregation openly stood with Bishop Mulakkal,” says Sr. Lucy.

Sr. Lucy works as a high school teacher at Sacred Heart Higher Secondary School in Dwaraka, Wayanad. When she came home to her convent in Karakkamala, her Mother Superior said she could not be part of the religious services at St. Mary’s Church, to which the convent is attached. “She said there had been an oral direction from the vicar,



Sister act Sr. Lucy Kalappura in Kozhikode; and (top) nuns in Thiruvananthapuram. S.RAMESH KURUP & S.GOPAKUMAR

Fr. Stephan Kottakkal, to bar me from religious service,” says Sr. Lucy. But the ban was lifted when the parishioners, most of them poor settler farmers for whom Sr. Lucy is like a family member, protested. But on social media, Sr. Lucy continues to be trolled. “Each attack only strengthens me,” she says.

### Pray and serve

Both Catholic nuns and priests take three vows: poverty, chastity and obedience. In practice, however, these vows are enforced far more strictly on nuns than on priests. Gender discrimination in the Catholic church is extraordinary, and begins right from the training stage. Priests are trained to be administrators, orators and managers, and given full charge of parishes; while nuns are taught to be obedient and service-oriented: ‘pray and serve’ is their motto.

Priests become doctors, lawyers, bishops and professors, while 90% of nuns become either nurses or teachers or serve in organisations under the Church. In the Catholic system, nuns are the “unpaid labourers,” says George Pulikuthiyil, a former Catholic priest, lawyer and founder of the Thirur-based Jana-neethi, an organisation that provides free legal support to the poor.

Most nuns work in hospitals or schools run by the Church, with no formal appointment, salary, pension, retirement age or working hours. “Even the little they earn – roughly ₹2,000 a month – must be given to the superiors. They then have to ask for money even for minor needs,” says Pulikuthiyil.

In a smaller diocese like Missionaries of Jesus, which was founded by the accused Bishop Mulakkal, nuns get ₹500 a month. Only those who work in government schools or hospitals can hope to make more money, even though they too have to give their salaries to their superiors. “Nuns are entirely dependent on the church. It’s this that leads to harassment,” says Pulikuthiyil.

In contrast, priests not only get allowances, they are allowed to manage establishments that generate revenue. Priests wear robes during mass but can wear street clothes at other times; nuns must wear their habit at all times. Some convents restrict nuns from television and newspapers. None of this applies to priests.

Sr. Lucy tells the amusing tale of a nun who, persuaded by her family to watch a film, ran into a priest at the theatre. When they returned, the priest complained about the nun, who was punished with two days of rigorous prayer and penance. Nothing happened to the priest.

Sr. Mary Rosarita, a former principal of St. Joseph’s Anglo Indian Girls Higher Secondary School, Kozhikode, strongly

refutes these charges. “In the 150-year-old history of our congregation, I have never heard complaints of exploitation,” she says. As for financial freedom, Sr. Rosarita says, “We have taken the vow of poverty. I have never felt the need to accumulate personal assets.”

### Vows violated?

According to Pulikuthiyil, the three vows are redundant. “Compulsory celibacy has been violated rampantly,” he says. Sexual violence in the Church goes largely unreported “because the patriarchal hegemony is very strong and nuns fear ostracism. They have been trained to be silent and obedient,” he says.

The problem might lie in how nuns and priests are ordained. Earlier, taking orders was strictly voluntary; nobody could be asked to do it. But for some three decades now, the Church has faced a severe shortage of nuns and priests. So, at the awareness classes for Class X and XII students that the Church conducts during vacations, students are strongly motivated to join the church.

Any student showing the slightest interest is then chased by practically every congregation. This means that boys and girls aged 16 to 20 enter the order.

“The government must make 21 years the minimum age for ordainment of nuns and priests,” says Sr. Lucy

decision,” says Sr. Lucy. Equally, they must be allowed to give up their robes without any difficulty. Today, it is practically impossible for nuns to leave the order, although it is easier for priests to do so.

Maria, an advocate and women’s rights activist from Wayanad, says nuns are afraid to leave the order despite adversities. “Except for a few in government jobs, nuns don’t have financial security. They don’t have property rights at home. Social stigma against a woman who leaves a convent is high. It forces them to stay.”

A third change should be in the training, suggests Pulikuthiyil. “It needs a total revamp. Outdated concepts like ‘the world, the flesh and the devil’ – traditionally described as enemies of the soul and sources of temptation – should be changed. The religious training should empower nuns and priests to survive in the contemporary world.”

The Bishop Mulakkal case has opened up a can of worms, but it could be the beginning of change. It has been a long haul to bring charges against a bishop in Kerala, where 18% of the population is Christian, where the Church holds considerable socio-political and economic power, and where the Catholic church is a citadel of patriarchy. But the nuns at the forefront of the agitation believe that this case could initiate reform in the role and dignity of women in the Church as well as in society.

## FOCUS

# Something to tell you

Parents of LGBTQ community members are ‘coming out’, with a little help from Sweekar



BY RESHMI CHAKRABORTY

It took Mangala Aher, from a middle-class Maharashtrian family, eight years to reconcile herself with her son who had become a daughter. A transgender woman, Abhina Aher – Associate Director, India HIV/AIDS Alliance – had struggled with her gender identity since childhood. As had her mother, a single parent who blamed everything – from the lack of a father figure to an interest in dance – for her son’s ‘feminine nature’.

“She couldn’t understand my frustration, I couldn’t understand hers. For many years, she stopped talking to me,” says Aher, 42, who started going through gender-reassignment surgeries at 30.

Today, both mother and daughter are part of Dancing Queen, a transgender-led dance troupe. Her mother’s support has been a game-changer for Aher: it gave her the positive touch she needed. Mangala, who is 72, is one of the 50 parents (mostly mothers) who make up Sweekar: The Rainbow Parents, a support group for parents of LGBTQ+ community members.

Parental support goes a long way in helping LGBTQ+ children come to terms with their sexuality and in creating awareness about a cause that’s mired in prejudice despite the landmark Supreme Court ruling that decriminalised homosexuality. Sweekar is meant to help parents so that they, in turn, can help their children. It was started in Oc-



Being there A pride march in Mumbai in 2018; and (top) families celebrate the 377 verdict. SWEETAR: THE RAINBOW PARENTS

tober 2016 by film-maker Sridhar Rangayan, director of the 2018 film *Evening Shadows* and founder of Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival.

“Families are the fulcrum of our lives in India,” says Rangayan, who believes that Sweekar has more work coming up ahead in the post-Section-377 environment. “Our immediate goal is not gay marriage or adoption rights but working towards changing mindsets.”

Needless to say, that starts at home, with families. Rangayan’s own mother took a long time to understand him when he came out in 1995. “Most parents start blaming themselves and feel guilty. Getting past that guilt and coming to a point of acceptance takes a long time,” he

says. For some parents, acceptance isn’t as much of a problem as having to explain the situation in their peer group, given the stigma and misunderstanding attached to LGBTQ+ issues.

### Shared journey

Although other organisations have been conducting parent support meetings, Rangayan felt that a dedicated parents-only group was much-needed. Sweekar is Mumbai-based but has Indian parents from across cities and even abroad as members. They don’t have a registered office but meet at a space donated by a member. “With a group you can share your story and draw courage from other people’s journeys,” Rangayan says.

“Our first meeting was in February 2017: we meet every three-four months,” says Aruna Desai, the group administrator (they have a closed Whatsapp group too) who, despite being unaware of homosexuality, supported her son Abhishek when he came out 11 years ago. She has since educated herself through books, attended talks and meetings with other parents, and participated in Gay Pride parades, including one in Vietnam.

Desai and other parents like film-maker Chitra Palekar, whose daughter Shalmali is a lesbian, have always been vocal in their support of their children even before the group was formed. Palekar’s daughter came out at the age of 21 but she had been aware of her orientation since she was 14 or 15.

“When I asked her why she didn’t tell me earlier, she said, ‘You talked of all things progressive except this:’ Most movies and plays involve a girl and a boy. She was scared.” Palekar, who supported her daughter immediately, says the revelation was like “a slap on the face”. She says, “I considered myself progressive but realised I wasn’t there for her when she needed me the most.”

The lack of support could have a terrible impact on children, warns Nilakshi Roy, a professor of English in a suburban Mumbai college and a Sweekar member. Her daughter is bisexual. “There have been cases of suicide and children leaving home; what parents need to do if they come to know about a sexuality crisis is read up on the matter and offer their support. Acceptance is more important here than what everybody else is thinking.”

While some parents cannot be convinced enough, some can be talked into opening up their minds. For instance, once 60-year-old Padma Iyer, mother of LGBTQ+ activist Harish Iyer, started going for parents’ meetings with her son, she gradually realised that homosexuality isn’t unnatural. “Given my conservative background, if I can come out as a parent, others can too,” says Iyer, who has even placed a matrimonial ad looking for a groom for her son.

The author is a freelance journalist based in Pune.

## CREDITS



### Aagahi: On Domestic Violence

2 min 38 sec  
Directed by Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy

Oscar-winning Pakistani film-maker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy has directed a series of 14 short animated films to spread awareness about social ills. The second of these shorts, produced by SOC Films, takes up domestic violence. It goes to the heart of the issue at the very beginning, pointing at the difficulty of finding out about domestic violence since much of it happens behind closed doors. It gives pointers to identify domestic violence in its different forms – physical, psychological, emotional, economic – all of which are punishable under different provisions of the Pakistan Penal Code. There is information about helplines, shelters and legal support available to victims.



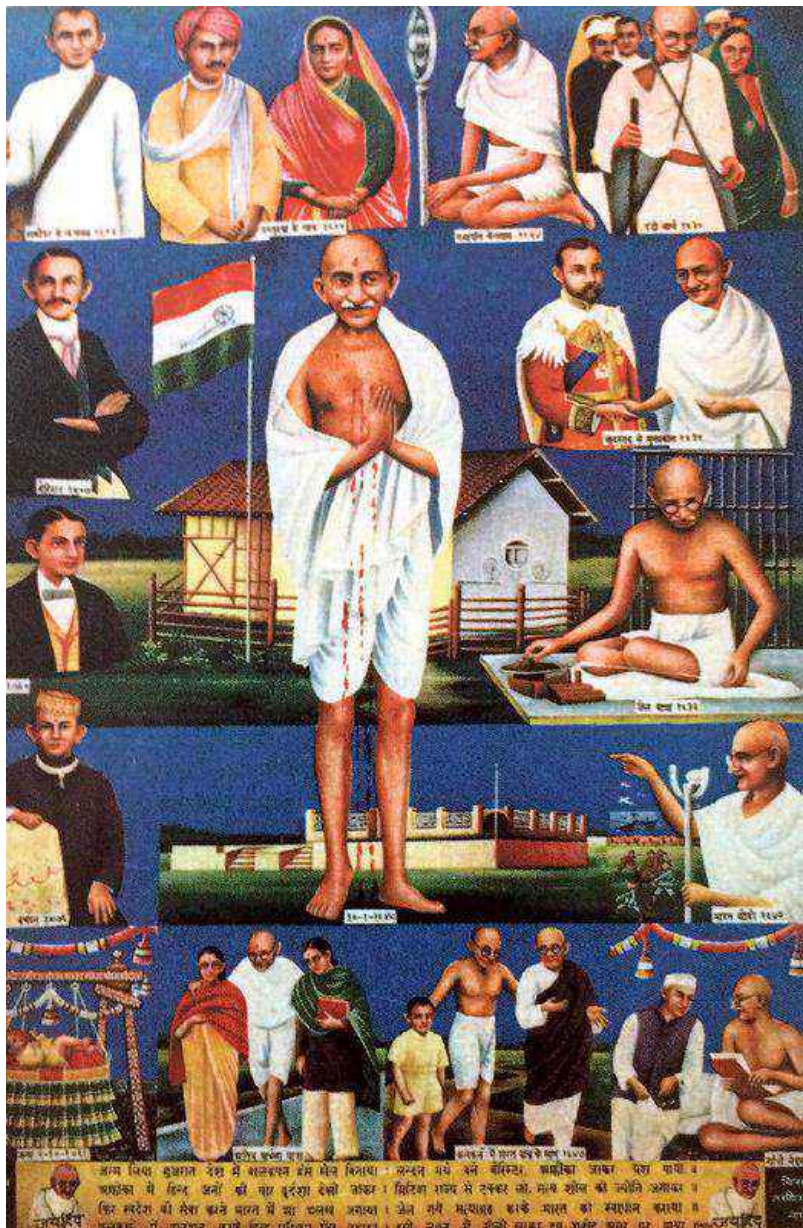
### Let’s revive Kerala

1 min 40 sec  
By Samsonite

A hotel owner waits for customers; a taxi-driver goes to the airport and returns without passengers; a Kathakali artist can’t seem to find the right colours for his make-up; a cook cannot find the right ingredients for her dish. This is Kerala after the floods, crippled by a lack of visitors. Travel-based company Samsonite makes an emotional plea in this video to revive Kerala tourism and so the economy of the State. “After all these difficult weeks, what Kerala really needs is you,” it says.

A curation of some of the most interesting news films and videos from around the world.





BY VINAY LAL

As another Gandhi Jayanti went by last week, the thought that occurred to me was this: just how was the life of Gandhi conveyed, in his own lifetime and in the aftermath of his death, to his countrymen and women, across towns and in India's hundreds of thousands of villages? What did they, who could not read, know of his life in panchayats and little hamlets? Did the Patuas or Chitrakars move from village to village and unfold the panels of their scrolls and so make vivid the episodes drawn from Gandhi's life? If they did so, the scrolls appear not to have survived.

There is something suggestive, in this regard, about a touching scene in the classic movie, *Garam Hawa*: the workers at the shoe factory of Mirza Sahib are gathered around a man who reads from a newspaper an account of Gandhi's assassination.

On the wall

There may thus have been many modes by which Gandhi's life was put

into circulation and the mind instinctively turns to biographies. Of biographies of Gandhi there is no end. India sent us Mohandas, Mandela is reported to have said, and we sent back a Mahatma, and it is in South Africa that the first slim biography of Gandhi was penned.

Many of the biographies that followed are, as befits an epic life, gargantuan in scope. There was, at first, D.G. Tendulkar's *Mahatma* in eight volumes; various volumes by Pyarelal appeared at a leisurely pace over the course of a few decades. But these works were published many years after independence, as is true of something like 700-800 biographies of Gandhi in English alone.

**The print from Hem Chander Bhargava & Co., offers cues on how Gandhi's life was stitched into the fabric of the nation**

SPOTLIGHT

# The imprint of a man's life

Gandhi's story and how it was interpreted by the printmakers of that age



Two stories The print created by Lakshminarayan Sharma in Bombay; and (left) 'Poojiya Gandhiji Ki Jivan Caritra', a print by Delhi-based Hem Chander Bhargava & Co.

Anthologies of Gandhi's writings began to proliferate around the mid-1920s, and his own 'lieutenants', most famously Mahadev Desai and later Pyarelal, were quick to bring out systematic narratives of his satyagraha campaigns. The two volumes of Gandhi's autobiography, written in Gujarati and rendered into English by Mahadev, appeared in 1927 and 1929, but the autobiography

takes the story of his life only to the early 1920s.

Gandhi's writings began to be disseminated by Navajivan Trust, a publishing house that he had established in 1929, but nevertheless it is unlikely that most Indians would have become acquainted with the contours of his life through published works.

By the early 1920s, printmakers,

working from a number of cities, had begun to take the narrative of the nationalist movement to the masses. These prints may have been passed from one hand to another; they may have been framed and placed prominently in homes, but it is also likely that they were affixed to walls, doors, or poster boards in public spaces.

Gandhi figured prominently in these prints, many shaped around the non-cooperation movement, the Salt Satyagraha, or Gandhi's teachings on subjects such as swadeshi and the economic impoverishment of India under colonial rule. One of the more striking of such prints, from the Delhi-based Hem Chander Bhargava & Co., takes as its subject the totality of Gandhi's life, from cradle to 'martyrdom', and offers cues on how Gandhi's life was stitched into the fabric of the nation.

The rites of passage

Titled 'Poojiya Gandhiji Ki Jivan Caritra' (The Life Story of Revered Gandhiji), the print invites the viewer to read Gandhi's life through rites of passage or critical events. The narrative begins at the bottom left with the infant Gandhi; moving along a vertical axis, the viewer encounters

men were his constant companions and sometimes dubbed his 'walking sticks'. Finally, Gandhi's life is brought to a close with his assassination: the martyred Gandhi is placed squarely in the centre of the print and both dominates and anchors the entire narrative.

Other prints based on Gandhi's life were also in circulation. From Picture Publishing Corporation in Bombay we have a print, created by Lakshminarayan Sharma, with some significant, indeed extraordinary, variations. The narrative is structured similarly, but the Indian tricolor, which is noticeably missing in the first print, occupies a good portion of the lower third of Sharma's print and offers a different framing device.

The baby's cradle is draped in the tricolor, as if to suggest that Gandhi was ordained from birth to lead the country to freedom; on the bottom right, Gandhi foregrounds the flag and the words, 'Sampurna Swaraj, 15 August 1947', suggesting that he successfully shepherded the country to its destiny. Most significantly, Gandhi lies in complete repose, his body adorned by the tricolor.

The script at the bottom enumerates

**The baby's cradle is draped in the tricolor, as if to suggest that Gandhi was ordained from birth to lead the country to freedom**

ters him at various stages of schooling in his native Gujarat and in England before he arrived in South Africa as an attorney. It is there that he developed the idea of non-violent resistance: in doing so, he stripped himself of his Western clothes and donned the garb of a satyagrahi.

As the viewer moves along the horizontal axis at the top of the print, the next phase of his life is vividly brought to the fore. In 1915, Gandhi returned to India with Kasturba, and campaigns at Champaran and Kheda acquainted him with the conditions of Indian peasantry. By the mid-1920s, Gandhi was preoccupied with the constructive programme, and finally in 1930 he launched the next phase of mass non-violent resistance with the Salt Satyagraha.

The viewer, at this point, moves vertically down the right side of the print. Gandhi made his way to London for the Round Table Conference to negotiate the terms of India's future; he also met the King-Emperor.

Of the nation, of the world

In the mid-1930s, he installed himself at an ashram in central India, where visitors almost invariably found him spinning. He launched the final phase of the freedom struggle with the call for the British to 'Quit India'. With this, the printmaker turned to some of the people who filled the last years of Gandhi's life: Nehru, children, and his grandnieces Manu and Abha. The two young wo-

men were his constant companions and sometimes dubbed his 'walking sticks'. Finally, Gandhi's life is brought to a close with his assassination: the martyred Gandhi is placed squarely in the centre of the print and both dominates and anchors the entire narrative.

men were his constant companions and sometimes dubbed his 'walking sticks'. Finally, Gandhi's life is brought to a close with his assassination: the martyred Gandhi is placed squarely in the centre of the print and both dominates and anchors the entire narrative.

A biography is seldom only a chronological narrative of a person's life, and these prints are no exception. And the print from Bhargava's workshop offers a decisive interpretation of Gandhi's life. It is attentive, for example, to the sartorial Gandhi: as we encounter Gandhi along the different stages of his life, we find him stripping himself of clothes and trying, in his own words, to reduce himself to zero.

Of Gandhi it can be said that he commenced his adult life vastly overdressed and ended it, by the reckoning of some, vastly under-dressed. His dhoti and shawl are not just blood-stained; blood drips down. The nation, too, has been stained by the dastardly act of the assassin; the country is drained, dripping with the blood of the innocents. The loss of blood points to the sacrifice of the Mahatma, but was this sacrifice in vain? Was the martyrdom of Gandhi necessary so that he could begin life anew?

The writer is Professor of History at UCLA, and blogs at vinaylal.wordpress.com.

NOW SHOWING

# See me, but on my terms

Ketaki Sheth has documented the small-town studio photographer with nostalgia and a touch of voyeurism

BY LOLA MAC DOUGALL

At Jagdish Photo Studio in Manori, a fishing village not far from Mumbai, photographer Ketaki Sheth was struck by a vision – of a "blue plastic stool against a sheer red curtain". The splash of colours inspired her to start her new photo series, titled 'Photo Studio', which is now showing at Photoink gallery in New Delhi. The colours she invokes are surprising for an artist previously known for her black-and-white photographs.

This exhibition not only marks what the press release calls Sheth's "extraordinary transition to colour and digital photography", but is also her first experiment with still life, a genre she has not explored previously. One of the important strands here is her empathy for studio photographers from small-town India; in addition, all the shots are tinged with a restrained nostalgia.

Contradictory impulses

From 2015 to 2018, Sheth visited 65 photo studios across India, most of which were already in decline. They nevertheless testify to their clients' persistent desire to combine a faithful representation of themselves while exploring the fancifulness associated with the studio portrait. As V. Geetha, one of the authors of *The Artisan Camera*, says, the "small studio photograph [remains] an important and valued repository of mutually contradictory impulses of memory, fantasy and truth telling".

The fantasy tools are afforded by the props, the hairdos and the outfits. There



is a noteworthy image of a tie and suit on a hanger in 'Photo Studio'. The men's suit, an ubiquitous prop, is visibly worn out, carrying the memory of the multiple bodies that have used it as a quick fix for a pose. It is significantly placed where a person would stand for a photo portrait. Sheth describes how she felt it deserved a portrait of its own, thereby hinting at one of the key aspects of this body of work: a series of still lifes approached as portraits and vice versa.

Painted backgrounds play a crucial role in the creation of the fictionalised world of the studio, a role highlighted both in the design of the exhibition at Photoink and in the publication that accompanies the show – incidentally, not just an exhibition catalogue but also a photobook in itself. The Kashmir-style landscapes, the skylines dotted with high-rises and tropical beaches constitute what Christopher Pinney calls in

his introductory essay a "stereotypical repertoire," which reflects the importance of the studio photographer also as an enabler of wanderlust.

That decayed crease

Sheth accessed the semi-private space of the studio not as a client but as a documenter of the workings of the small-town photographer: her empathy is not devoid of a certain degree of voyeurism. Browsing through the book, I realised how an interesting authorial intersection has taken place here: Sheth superimposes her own authorial voice, which she affirms in different ways, on the mood set by the studio-owner: in the portraits, for instance, there can be no doubt that the posers are responding to her gaze. Sheth asserts her vision in the framing as well: her widely-framed images show aspects of the studio well beyond the stage. It is here, in



**The photo of an adolescent bending forward to hide her face, is an image of resistance to being photographed**

both the book and the exhibition assign special importance, is an image of resistance to being photographed. Its inclusion is a questioning of Sheth's entitlement. As South-African writer Sean O'Toole described in the essay 'Moving between land and subject', "The man is refusing the photographer – and by implication the photographer's interested and questioning ally, us... Implicit in the man's pose, as well as [the photographer's] decision to place his photograph upfront, is a concession: see me, but on my terms."

One image has a somewhat decayed cut-out of Mahatma Gandhi taking centre stage. I am not sure I can discern what a friend insinuated – that the deteriorating prop stands for the erosion of the icon. More than the political reading, what interests me is the hybridity in this photograph, which operates at two different levels.

On the one hand, the image has a startling three-dimensionality to it, which is surprising if we take into account that it has been twice flattened: first by transferring the real Gandhi onto a photograph, which is then transformed into a tri-dimensional cutout, a photo-sculpture, and flattened again by Sheth. Secondly, and here we go back to the suit discussed earlier, one is attracted to its ambiguity: are we witnessing a portrait of a still life or the still life of a portrait? Gandhi seems to be present in both cases, and made an accomplice in this subversion of genres.

What if we thought of 'Photo Studio', including its peopled portraits, as a collection of spirited still lifes? Considered in this vein, props such as, say, the green velvet loveseat, become as alive as any sitter.

**ON SHOW:** 'Photo Studio', Photoink, New Delhi, till October 13.

The writer is the founding director of GoaPhoto and JaipurPhoto, and the author of essays on photography.





# High five in Busan

Alone, lonely, solitary, single, solo — five Indian films on loneliness premiere at the ongoing Busan film festival

BY KENNITH ROSARIO

Growing up in the 90s in Vadodara, filmmaker Hardik Mehta, an ardent admirer of Hindi films, was most fascinated by “side actors” like Dan Dhanoa, Tej Sapru and Dalip Tahil, who formed a fire-wall around “main villains” like Amrish Puri. Years later, as an assistant director in Mumbai, Mehta was intrigued to see those now-familiar faces on sets, still playing second fiddle to the heroes. “They were always there on the posters of big action films but eventually our cinema changed and those faces were wiped out and only the hero became the poster,” says the 34-year-old filmmaker.

In his feature directorial debut, *Kaamyab*, Mehta wanted to chronicle the

story of one such character actor, who suddenly realises he is one film short of his 500th, and emerges from retirement to chase it. “I wanted to make a film about a guy who was always part of quantity but never quality,” says Mehta.

### Indian presence

Featuring Sanjay Mishra and Deepak Dobriyal, *Kaamyab* is one of five Indian films premiering at the 23rd Busan International Film Festival (BIFF, October 4-13) in The Window on Asian Cinema section. The other four are Devashish Makhija’s *Bhonsle*, Praveen Morchhale’s *Widow of Silence*, Sanjoy Nag’s *Yours Truly* and Dar Gai’s Indo-Ukraine production, *Namdev Bhau: In Search of Silence*.

Rima Das’s *Bulbul Can Sing* and Rahi Anil Barve’s *Tumbbad*, too, will have

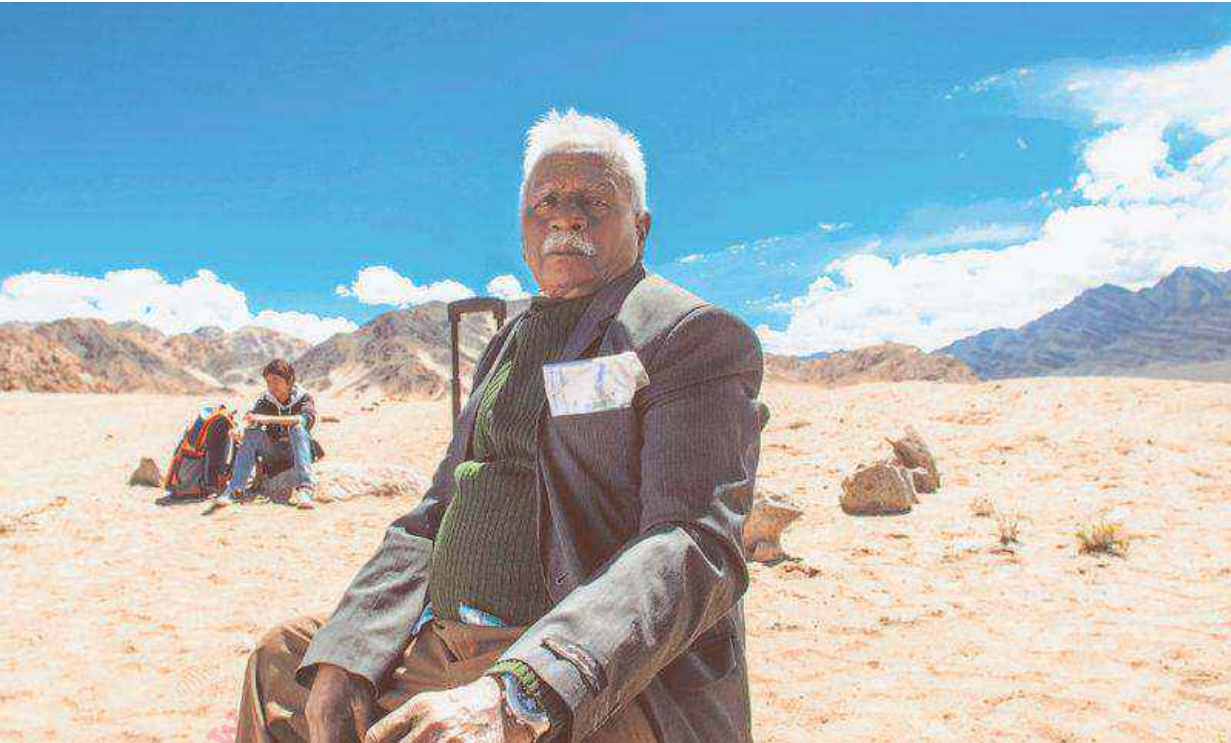
their Asian premieres, alongside the Korean premieres of Rajkumar Hirani’s *Sanju* and Nandita Das’ *Manto*.

Calling it a ‘light-hearted slice-of-life’ film, Mehta is pleasantly surprised that *Kaamyab* is doing the rounds of the prestigious South Korean festival. “Last year, [the films] at Busan were very different in their art and aesthetics. Our film is more mainstream because the idea itself is the memory of mainstream,” he says.

**Bhonsle explores various facets of being an outsider: from caste, class, region to language**



Moving images (clockwise from left) Stills from *Yours Truly*, *Namdev Bhau*, and *Kaamyab*.



**‘Anywhere in the world where there’s conflict, women and children suffer the most’**

er, whether caste, class, region or language.

*Bhonsle*, along with Morchhale’s *Widow of Silence*, is among the nine films nominated for the Kim Jiseok Award at the festival.

Morchhale’s film chronicles a ‘half-widow’s’ struggle for the death certificate of her husband who disappeared seven years ago. It focuses on the tribulations of her family, which includes her daughter and mother-in-law, without addressing the political conflict in the Valley.

“I’m not commenting on who is right or wrong or why the situation occurred,” says the 49-year-old filmmaker. “Anywhere in the world, where there’s conflict, women and children suffer the most, because they have no control or say in what is happening around them.”

### In search of love

It’s a different kind of struggle for the female protagonist in Nag’s *Yours Truly*. Shot in Kolkata, the film is an adaptation of a short story, ‘The One That Was Announced’, by Annie Zaidi.

A lonely middle-aged woman, Mithi (played by Soni Razdan), hears a man’s voice during her train commute. He may be a figment of her imagination but

he soon becomes her confidant. “It’s a love story, a story of longing, looking for love, trying to validate love,” says Nag, whose debut feature, *Memories in March* (2010), competed in the festival’s New Currents section.

### Finding a friend

While Nag’s protagonist looks for comfort in company, Gai’s leading man in *Namdev Bhau*, an exasperated Mumbai driver, wants to lead a solitary life. On his journey to a “silent valley”, he meets a chatty young boy who presents a new perspective on life.

Gai, a Ukrainian filmmaker based in India, wrote the script keeping in mind her producer Dheer Momaya’s 65-year-old driver, Namdev Gurav, a man with “a charismatic personality and a dark sense of humour.” She insisted on casting him in the lead role and enrolled him in a month-long acting workshop. “I was fascinated by the idea of casting someone who has experienced what I am writing about in real life,” she says. *Namdev Bhau* will head to the BFI’s London Film Festival for its U.K. premiere next.

All five films are aiming for commercial release, in cinemas or online, after the festival circuit.

Busan gives you visibility, which indirectly translates to sales,” says Nag. But Makhija cautions: “If you’ve not made a great enough film, and get a bunch of bad reviews at festivals, then you aren’t going to do your films much service.”

As prestigious as a Busan premiere might be, festival rounds, at the end of the day, can be a doubt-edged sword.

## ONE MOMENT PLEASE

# Movie buffs and time machines

A rich cinematic past comes alive in *Manto*



JAI ARJUN SINGH finds it easier to concentrate on specific scenes than entire films as he grows older

There are so many good and honourable things in Nandita Das’s *Manto*, which intersperses vignettes from Saadat Hasan Manto’s life with scenes from his short stories, that I feel a little sheepish mentioning the moments that *aren’t* central but which sent me into a pleasant reverie.

One was the early scene, set in the mid-1940s, where writers Ismat Chughtai, Rajinder Singh Bedi and Krishan Chander sit at a table with Manto, bantering away, no doubt thinking of the challenges of India’s impending independence. Watching this was to be reminded that Bedi had scripted *Satyakam*, which has a scene set in 1946 where a group of idealistic youngsters discuss how things will change forever once the British leave.

The other was the scene at the film-industry party where Manto mingles with such personalities as the singer Jaddanbai (played by Ila Arun), her teenage daughter Nargis, headed for movie stardom, and one of Hindi cinema’s first major male stars Ashok Kumar.

For anyone who knows the young Kumar through films of the 1930s or 40s, or through the writings of Manto, Nabendu Ghosh and other contemporaries, an essence of the man was recognisable in Bhanu Uday’s performance even though there was no recourse to caricature. Tapping a glass to make an announcement, then swaying unselfconsciously as Jaddanbai sings, here is the star who was steeped in a tradition of Indian classical music but also slipped easily into an urbane, westernised avatar, becoming a producer, mentor and an anchoring figure in the industry.

**Celebrity singer!** I liked that Das didn’t underline things too much in these scenes. Discussing the film at a class a few days after, I had the sly pleasure of seeing looks of astonish-



A poster of *Manto*.

ment spread over students’ faces when told that the woman who sang in that party scene was the grandmother of Sanjay baba – Sanjay Dutt – and that the beaming, smooth-complexioned girl next to her... that was Dutt’s mummy, of whom they had seen a more fleshed out version in Rajkumar Hirani’s *Sanju*.

(If the students had been closer to my age, I might have mentioned that the ‘Ashok Kumar’ shown amidst star-struck crowds was the peak-career version of the well-loved Dada Moni who introduced ‘Hum Log’ and played small avuncular parts in films like *Mr. India*. But oh, well.)

I can’t say if these scenes and performances would have worked if this had been a full-fledged biopic about the Hindi film industry, but they worked just fine as a snapshot of an era. They reminded me of scenes from Martin Scorsese’s *The Aviator*, such as the depiction of an episode I had first read about in a film book: Howard Hughes flies down from the

**Personally, I would love a filmic depiction of V. Shantaram’s early years, and the setting up of the Prabhat Film Company**

clouds, lands on a beach where the 1935 film *Sylvia Scarlett* is being shot, and saunters across for his first meeting with Katharine Hepburn.

While Hughes and Hepburn (played by Leonardo DiCaprio and Cate Blanchett) are central to the film, this scene also has a split-second shot that only a bona-fide lover of old Hollywood would register: we see Cary Grant and director George Cukor looking with bemusement at the aviator.

### Myth-indulging scene

Not long after this comes a rambunctious party scene where Errol Flynn (played by Jude Law) turns on the charm, swaggers about and gets into a brawl – all within a minute or two! Though sensing that this scene was a bit of affectionate myth-indulging by Scorsese (who is a huge movie buff and historian), I also gave in to the spell: this is how it might have been in those days, I thought.

And it made me yearn for the gift of time travel. Having recently read Trisha Das’s novel *Kama’s Last Sutra*, in which a young archaeologist is sent back to the 11th century, I could relate to the character’s awe at participating in the history she had read about – much the same way I could relate to the protagonist of Woody Allen’s *Midnight in Paris* rubbing shoulders with Ernest Hemingway and Gertrude Stein in a Paris of a bygone time.

For someone obsessed with cinema’s past, the nearest thing to a time machine would be a good, well-scripted film – or a long-form series – about pivotal moments from our film history. International shows like *Feud* – about the Bette Davis-Joan Crawford rivalry – have managed to be seriously researched while also pleasing fans of the era, and there’s no reason why something along those lines can’t be done for Indian cinema.

Personally, I would love a filmic depiction of V. Shantaram’s early years, and the setting up of the Prabhat Film Company. From there, we can move slowly – very slowly – into the 1930s, and then let our time machine determine its own course. Any takers?

## ODD FILM OUT

# Not a marionnette

Nihalani’s *Sanshodhan* showed rural women taking charge

BY PRAGYAN MOHANTY

Long before the Right to Information Act and Right to Education Act, Govind Nihalani’s film *Sanshodhan* (The Amendment) talked with compulsive honesty about the lack of transparency in official procedures and the bureaucratic hurdles faced by activists.

This NFDC-UNICEF produced film from 1996 is themed around women’s participation in governance. With a well-researched script by Nihalani and playwright Tripurari Sharma, *Sanshodhan* exposes the realities of rural politics.

*Sanshodhan* is set in a Rajasthan village, where affluent, upper-caste men control the local politics. When the government makes it mandatory to reserve seats in every village panchayat for women, the men try to manipulate the system by fielding the women of their families. The film’s protagonist, Vidya (Vanya Joshi), the newly-married bride of a poor shop-owner, Bhanwar (Manoj Bajpayee), is one such candidate. Vidya, however, doesn’t turn out to be the marionette they had hoped for.

Vidya journeys from being a

pawn of powerful men to a self-aware woman to ultimately a mass mobiliser. Joshi portrays Vidya with sensitivity. “The story resonated with me as my late grandmother was a social worker who worked extensively with women. So, Vidya’s transformation from a demure, hesitant bride to a confident woman on a mission happens organically. The changes in her tone, body language and even the gradual shift of the sari’s *pallu* covering her head happen over a course of time,” says Joshi, who bagged the role after Nihalani saw her in the telefilm, *Abhi Nahin*.

### On her behalf

The film’s observations about patriarchy and gender inequity are on point. Although Vidya is a graduate, nobody asks her before fielding her as a candidate. In fact, she isn’t

**There is a refreshing picture of female solidarity in Vidya’s relationship with her mother-in-law**



Self-aware women A still from *Sanshodhan*.

even aware that she is filing the nomination papers when Bhanwar asks her to sign on some documents. In a telling scene, Vidya opens a dusty window and looks on curiously at the ongoing campaign. A jeep full of men passes by, with her husband and the partymen chanting, “*Padhi likhi aaj ki naari, Vidya Devi*,” (‘Vidya Devi, the well-educated woman of today’) and seeking votes on her behalf.

*Sanshodhan* shows that the struggle of women for self-determination is the same across social divides. Vidya, for all her power as an elected representative, is pressured and publicly chided by her husband for not obeying the sarpanch’s diktats. Her friend Manju (Kavita Rayirath) is trapped in an oppressive marriage with the sarpanch. And then there is Mahisari (Utkarsha Naik), a feisty daily wage earner whose protests go unheard because of her low social and economic status.

As a counterpoint, there is female solidarity in Vidya’s relationship with her mother-in-law, played by the formidable Uttara Baokar. “She offers counsel to her daughter-in-law, stands by her steadfastly, and isn’t hesitant to call out her son when he is in the wrong,” says Joshi.

Given the film’s subject – government reforms – *Sanshodhan* could have been dull and preachy. Instead, under Nihalani’s masterful direction, we have a slow-burning, compelling feminist film.

As Vidya says in the film: *Rishta tabhi qaayam hota hai jab ek dabne waala ho aur ek dabaane waala? Do-no baraabar nahin ho sakte kya?* (‘Can there be a relationship only when there is an oppressor and an oppressed? Can’t the two be equal?’)

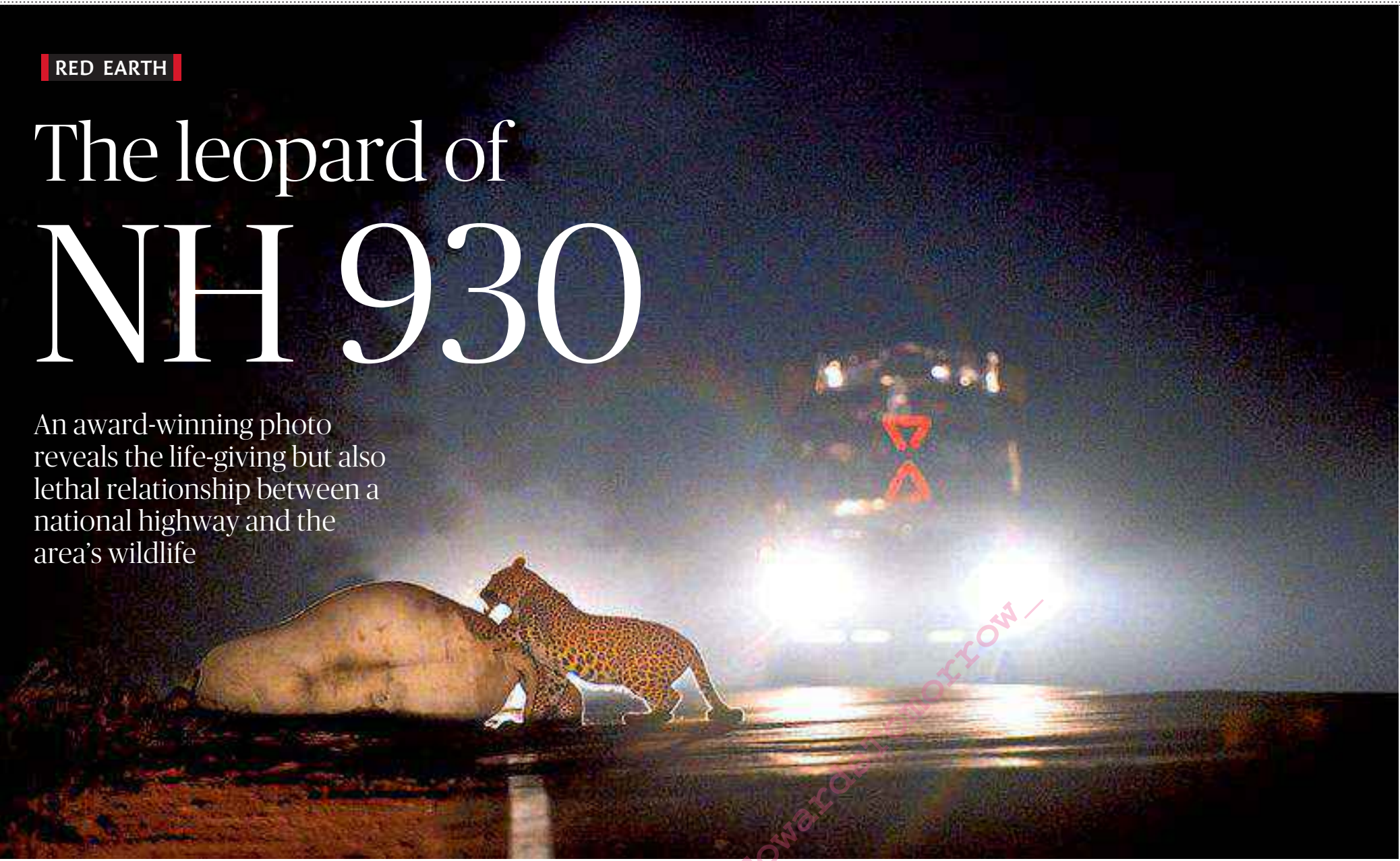
The Bengaluru-based freelance writer believes one Rafi song a day keeps the doctor away.



RED EARTH

# The leopard of NH 930

An award-winning photo reveals the life-giving but also lethal relationship between a national highway and the area's wildlife



**Highway toll** This picture won an award last month at the Nature in Focus Photography Awards 2018. NIKHIL TAMBEKAR

cles. And the incidents have increased with the recent widening of the highway from two to four lanes, bumping up the average speed of traffic. "Sloth bears are among the most common victims. Then there are palm civets and jungle cats, snakes and nocturnal birds like nightjars."

**Night threats** According to Shekar Dattatri, wildlife and conservation filmmaker, who is in the process of producing a film on the impact of big roads on wildlife, the Chandrapur-Mul Highway passes through an important corridor for big cats who come out of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. It is, therefore, extremely critical to conservation in the region, he says. "Like all highways passing through wildlife habitats, traffic poses a serious threat to wildlife, particularly at night."

Road ecology, says Dattatri, is now a well established science, and there are

**Five months after the picture was taken, the big cat was hit by a vehicle, fracturing its spine**

BY DIVYA GANDHI  
At around midnight last December, Nikhil Tambekar, a bookshop owner, was driving down National Highway 930 when his headlights caught a pair of glinting eyes in the distance. This stretch, the Chandrapur-Mul road in eastern Maharashtra, has for years been a favourite nightly haunt for Tambekar, who's also a wildlife photographer.

He has captured tigers and wild dogs, sloth bear and deer as they traverse this road, to scavenge or drink from watering holes nearby or just nap on the smooth tar. Tambekar also uses photography to document a troubling trend in these parts: roadkill. Dozens of wild animals are killed every year by speeding

vehicles on this highway, which passes through the eco-sensitive zone around the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.

Tambekar stopped his car to get a better look. It was a leopard, making its tentative way, amid roaring trucks, to the carcass of a cow. It had two cubs in tow. Tambekar spent the next five hours observing the trio.

"The leopard was clearly very hungry but it was also wary of the vehicles. It would approach the carcass and dash back into the forest every time a car or truck went by. Some of them were speeding at well over 100 km/hr."

But there was another big, tusked obstacle in its way: a formidable wild boar, far bigger than this leopard, had positioned itself by the cow and had begun scavenging on it. It was only at 4 a.m.,

**There was another big obstacle in the way: a wild boar, far bigger than the big cat, had positioned itself by the cow**

when the traffic had abated and the boar had left, that the leopard and cubs summoned up the courage to begin their feed.

And this was when Tambekar got the shot of a lifetime: the leopard, a cub by its side, backlit by the headlights of an enormous multi-axle truck lumbering

down the other side of the road. "It's exactly what I was hoping for. The leopard rim-lit, its contours glowing – the kind of shot you generally only get during a sunset." Last month, this picture won an award at the Nature in Focus Photography Awards 2018.

**Feeding spot** As dawn broke, the traffic began to thicken and vehicles veered dangerously close to the hungry cats. Tambekar informed the forest department, and they pushed the carcass into the forest. The leopard and cub feasted on it for the next three days.

In the few weeks that followed, the leopard, emboldened by its bovine treat, often ventured out on to the highway. "In fact, I find that several species of wil-

dlife come regularly to this stretch to feed on cattle and feral dogs knocked down by the traffic," says Tambekar.

But this feeding spot would soon prove deadly for the leopard. Five months after the award-winning picture was taken, the big cat was hit by a vehicle, fracturing its spine. A video recorded by a passer-by moments after, one widely shared on social media, showed the cat making its way unsteadily back into the woods.

Later, the forest department tranquilised the animal and took it to the Nagpur zoo for treatment, but it didn't survive. "I knew it was the same leopard from the coat pattern," says Tambekar.

In the last decade that he has shot on this stretch of road, Tambekar has seen countless wildlife species killed by vehi-

many tried and tested ways of mitigating the serious problem of roadkill. "These include strategically located flyovers for vehicles, as well as well-designed animal underpasses and overpasses. However, for any of these measures to work, they have to be implemented with all design parameters in place and with full sincerity of purpose, which is often lacking in India."

Tambekar meanwhile, recently noticed that one of the leopard's cubs, now around 15 months old, has become a frequent visitor to the same road. He has a shot of it comfortably asleep on the tiled roof of a small house in the vicinity.

But the photographer is slightly more hopeful for this cat. "Environmentalists have begun protesting against the road widening project here, and hopefully this will bear fruit," he says.

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE

## Like a fur sausage on four legs

The fox may be cute but it's the golden jackal that's best suited for Aesop's Fables



JANAI LENIN is not a conservationist but many creatures share her home for reasons she is yet to discover

Few creatures outwit the fox in Aesop's Fables. But Indian foxes are not contenders for the role of the wily trickster, says Abi Tamim Vanak. "They are cute but slightly dumb," he declares.

For instance, he says, every member of a family of foxes that had made its home in a large mound in Nannaj in Maharashtra, fell into a nearby well one by one and drowned. You'd think that seeing the deep hole in the ground every day, they'd learn to skirt it. Being careless is a sign of being dim-witted, says the researcher.

However, when Vanak tried to trap foxes in Maharashtra, he didn't have an easy time. American researchers studying kit foxes would set cage traps and throw a sausage in, and by morning, they'd have their animals. But Indian foxes didn't fall for that. They seemed content to eat any food lying around the cage but refused to enter it. Vanak enticed them with grapes, boiled eggs, dog food, and even cat food. Nothing worked. He would have been better off digging a well.

What Vanak did trap were domestic cats, jungle cats, a flock of babblers, and even a dog that was too big for the trap and managed to back out of it. If all these creatures were dumb enough to get caught, surely this only illustrated how smart the Indian foxes were. "There are gradations of smartness," Vanak says.

### Miss Cal and friends

He changed tactics, opting to bury and camouflage foothold traps. Unwary foxes snagged themselves. Vanak called the first one Miss Cal because he miscalculated her weight and the tranquilising drug meant to keep her down long enough to fix a GPS collar. After outfitting her with the tracking device, he followed her from afar as she raised two litters. Since then, he has trapped and studied 53 foxes.

Some unchaperoned pups were fearless, recounts Vanak. They boldly approached him as he sat observing



Catch me if you can The Indian fox – cute, cat-like, and delicate. SUMEET MOGHE/ WIKI COMMONS

**As if to show they hadn't been fooled, the jackals dug the snares up and left them exposed for Vanak to find**

them from a distance. When their mother showed up, her bark sent them scurrying for cover. She then changed dens immediately, perhaps to keep her young from becoming overly familiar with Vanak.

Despite their protectiveness, vixens don't live in the same burrows as their kits. Instead, they hunker down nearby and visit the nursery den every evening at feeding time. Maybe this is their way of reducing their exposure to fleas by spending as little time as possible with the cubs.

The best contender for Aesop's foxy role is the golden jackal, says Vanak. It is wily and extremely suspicious of anything that's out of place in the environment. This trait posed a challenge to the researcher as he struggled to catch the animals.

The leghold traps he had successfully deployed for foxes didn't work. As if to show they hadn't been fooled, the jackals dug the snares up and left them exposed for Vanak to find the

next morning. On a 1 to 10 ease-of-capture scale, jungle cats rank low, while these canids would probably score 10.

In 2016, Vanak met Aviv Abeljoum, a jackal trapper in Israel, who went to extraordinary lengths to allay the animals' suspicion. First, he cleaned the devices thoroughly and dipped them in hot wax to remove the smell of metal. Then he filled a box with earth from the trap site. So no human odour contaminated them, he handled the wax-coated traps with gloves when burying them in the soil. At the location, he spread a plastic sheet on which to kneel, not because he needed a cushion but to make sure his sweat didn't fall on the ground. This exaggerated degree of caution wasn't enough. Even the bait had to be placed carefully.

### Catching Don

The typical method was to throw food around the trap to lure the animal in. But Abeljoum said it was better to place it above ground on a nearby rock rather than attract the jackal's attention to the snare itself. This way, it follows its nose to the bait, and as it runs away with it, springs the trap.

Following all these painstaking steps was no guarantee of success. One large jackal was a master of evasion. In the end, the animal didn't get caught in the main trap but by a back-

up. Vanak named him Don after the Amitabh Bachchan movie because he was reminded of this dialogue: "Don ko pakadna mushkil hi nahi, namumkin hai (It is not just difficult to capture Don, it is impossible)."

But even after they were trapped, Vanak faced challenges. Once caught, jackals become trap-shy. He couldn't trap them again to change the batteries on their GPS collar.

No doubt this extraordinary suspicion helps jackals thrive in areas where people live, but they can never be too careful. Rarely abroad during the day, they go about their business only at night.

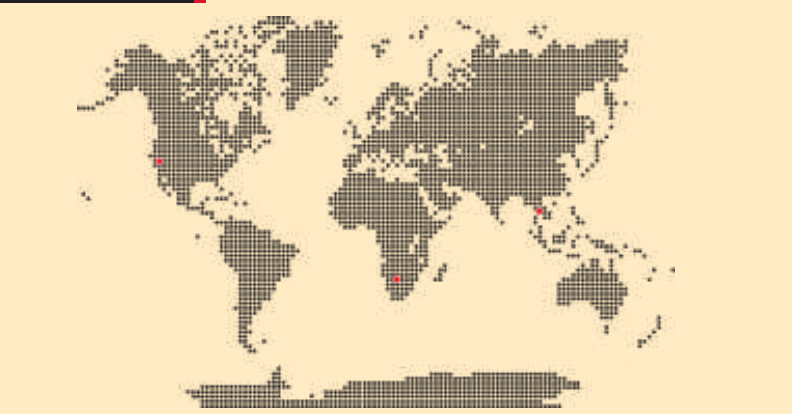
On one occasion, poultry farmers sprayed pesticide on carcasses to keep flies away and dumped them out in the open. An entire clan of jackals, including Don and two others that Vanak was monitoring, dined on this poisoned feast and died.

Since foxes and jackals are smart in differing ways, Vanak plans to test their problem-solving skills. There's no doubt however that jackals are "super clever". But Vanak declares his favourite animal is the Indian fox. "It's like a fur sausage on four legs – cute, rather cat-like, and delicate."

Why not jackals? "They stink," he says. "Jackals have this horrible smell, like an entire zoo on four legs."

Odour notwithstanding, it's time to give the jackal its rightful place in Aesop's Fables.

FLASHPOINT



### Cracked: African bush elephant's skin



The African bush elephant, unlike the Asian elephant, has an intricate network of crevices that help it retain water. Now scientists who studied skin samples provided by museums reveal that these are not wrinkles, they are actual cracks or fractures caused by local bending mechanical stress. So why do these features exist?

First, African elephants lack the sweat glands that allow several mammals to keep their skin moist. So

they avoid overheating through water and mud they collect in their skin. Second, the cracks also help retain mud, which has an added advantage – it protects the elephant from parasites.

### Freedom to surf



The US supreme court has refused to hear the case of California billionaire Vinod Khosla, who shut public entry to Martin's Beach after he bought the 89-acre property in south of San Francisco's Half Moon Bay 10 years ago. The beach is a popular surf spot in California where all beaches are mandated to be accessible to the public.

"The most conservative and divided supreme court in my lifetime confirmed that even a billionaire, who refuses to acknowledge that

the law applies to him, and retains the most expensive attorneys he can find, cannot create a private beach," said Joseph Cotchett, attorney for Surfrider Foundation, an organisation that filed a lawsuit against Khosla five years ago.

### The beach is closed



The picturesque Maya Bay in Thailand is one of the world's most popular beaches, made even more famous by the film *The Beach*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. But the millions of tourists who visit this beach every year have extensively damaged it, destroying an estimated 80% of corals in the area too.

To let the bay recover, Thai authorities have announced that it will be closed for at least a year. The beach has been closed since June, and was originally supposed to open

in four months. But, "The ecosystem and the beach's physical structure have yet returned to its full condition," said a letter from Thailand's Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation.



# The blue jackal and other stories

It's time we encouraged meaningful literature for the next generation of readers

BY JERRY PINTO

I was invited to the 2nd Bal Sahitya Parishad held in Goa and I went because it was Goa and hey, who doesn't want to go to Goa? And because it was an event that was about writing for children and I have always been a sucker for lost causes.

Think about it for a moment. When was the last time you saw a children's book reviewed in the mainstream papers? Please let's not talk about J.K. Rowling and Pottermania because it is the fig leaf with which we all cover our sins. So here's the thing: newspapers should be thinking about nurturing the next generation of readers. They should be encouraging writing for children by giving considered and considerable coverage to it. Instead, they just blunder on, hoping that children will be reading and that they will eventually get to reading the papers. But children don't have the vote and children don't have money. This means they are easy to ignore. This means they are not a section of society anyone has to pander to. Yes, they have pester power, 1% of 1% of 1%. The rest are silenced by 'one tight slap' or worse.

So who buys books for children? Adults. Adults who? Well, there's Auntie and Uncle. Actually, it's probably Auntie though Uncle gets to sign his name

and does so with a flourish. Auntie does the actual work. She goes to the bookshop and asks the shop assistant where the books for children are. The shop assistant points wordlessly to an aisle where the Illustrated Tales from Our Immortal Epics gleam in ten thousand rows of books, all pretty much telling the same stories.

## Once upon a time

Here's one you're familiar with: There was once a crane and a fox who were friends. The fox invited the crane to dinner and served it in dishes so the crane couldn't eat because she couldn't get her beak into the food. The crane went home hungry and annoyed. So she invited the fox to dinner and served it in tall-necked jars, so the fox couldn't get his snout into the food.

Heigh ho.  
What lesson did you just learn, boys and girls?

We learn that we must eat with our own kind.

**But children don't have the vote and children don't have money. This means they are easy to ignore**

Who is my kind?

Oh, for that you must ask Daddy and Mummy, or better still, your grandparents who will parse your kind for you. They have done the math, they know the stats, and they're sure they know who you can eat with and who you shouldn't eat with.

I want so much to find a book that has this story in it.

There was once a crane and a fox who were friends. The fox invited the crane to dinner and served it in dishes so the crane couldn't eat because she couldn't get her beak into the food. The crane went home hungry and annoyed. So she invited the fox to dinner and served it in tall-necked jars, so the fox couldn't get his snout into the food. He went home hungry and annoyed too.

But the next day, they met in the market when they were both shopping for food and the fox was buying a long-necked jar and the crane was buying a flat serving plate. And the next week, they both went over to each other's houses and enjoyed their meals and told stories and had a lot of fun.

Because they are friends, you see, and friends don't have to be exactly like each other. They just have to be able to adjust a wee bit.

Or here's another one you've probably heard too.

Once upon a time there was a jackal who fell into a pot of blue dye and when the sun rose the

next day, he was blue. And all the animals in the jungle thought he was something special and made him king but then one night the moon came out and the jackal howled and they said, 'Oh he's nothing but a jackal who's dyed blue,' and they beat him black and not-blue.

What did you learn from that one, my wee ones? You learned that whatever you do, you'll always be you. Now that's a wonderful lesson to learn, you would think but what if blue was a code word for education. Let's read that story differently.

## Hidden truths

There was once a young potter who thought he could become a doctor. He went and got a doctor's degree from Oxford and he even played cricket for them so he earned his blue but when he came back to his village, everyone said, 'He's still a potter's son.'

Of course, there are many more books out there and books by Indian authors. But Auntie and Uncle think they should get their nephews and nieces books by British and American authors because they write English better. Perhaps we could get British and American authors to study Tamil and Telugu and Hindi and Nagamese and all

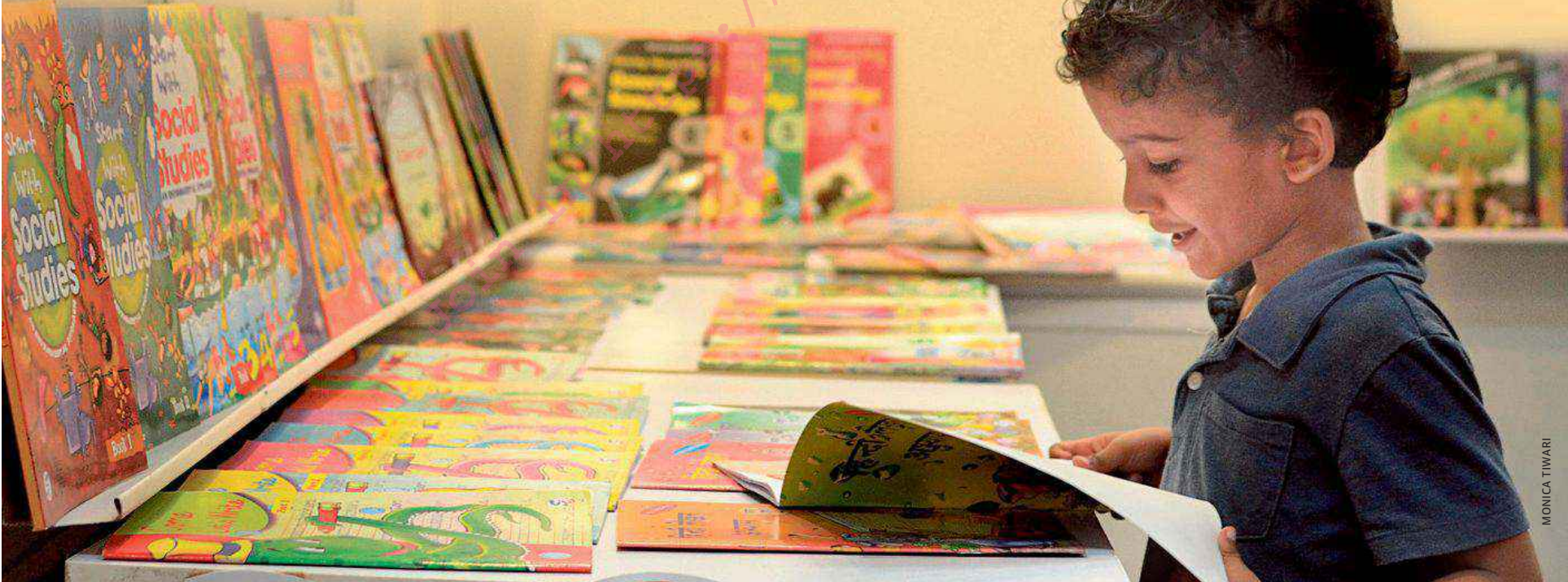
our other languages and we could get them to write stories in those languages as well so that our children could be served just a little better.

The Bal Sahitya Parishad was an enjoyable and exciting event. There were some good speeches but here was also a wonderful and strange moment where a woman who is on some kind of panel that deals with textbooks across the country was asked whether there were books that dealt with dark issues. She said there weren't any Indian books, not yet. She'd missed Paro Anand's *No Guns At My Son's Funeral* (violence and oppression) perhaps. (*The Other* has just come out, so perhaps she can be excused). She'd missed Himanjali Sankar's *Talking of Muskaan* (teen suicide, homosexuality). She'd missed Sheila Dhir's *Why Are You Afraid To Hold My Hand?* (disability). She'd missed *Sorry, Best Friend!*, edited by Shama Futehally and Githa Hariharan (communal harmony).

Perhaps she'd simply given up reading Indian writers because all the books she mentioned were by British and American authors.

Heigh ho.

The author tries to think and write and translate in the cacophony of Mumbai.



# Bridge over the River Ganga

After the new bridge is built, can the people keep the old Dufferin Bridge for themselves?



BY NIMESH VED

A new bridge has been announced over the Ganga in Varanasi. The old one, they say, is close to collapse, and needs an overhaul or rest. Last year, a report found the bridge to be in critical condition. In 2016, it had seen the infamous stampede that resulted in the death of some 20 people.

It's difficult to put a number to the trains and vehicles that would have crossed the Ganga on the 130-year-old Dufferin Bridge. Two railway tracks, a wide road, footpaths on either side, and a graceful grandeur matched with robustness. A structure befitting the Ganga and Varanasi; not an easy task.

Dufferin Bridge was named after Lord Dufferin who was the Viceroy of India when it was completed. In 1948, it was renamed Malviya Bridge after Madan Mohan Malaviya, the founder of Banaras Hindu University. It has other names: Rajghat Bridge (for the locality that abuts it) and, my personal favourite since child-

hood, Double Decker Bridge (because trains run on the lower level and the road runs above).

In recent months, I have often walked to the Adi Keshav ghat or the Khirkiya ghat to savour the sight of the bridge from there. Here, during *godhuli*, the hour of cow dust, I eagerly wait for the trains to roll over; the long goods trains or their well-lit and windowed brethren, the passenger trains. Both the ghats are ideal for quiet evenings communing with oneself or with friends you are comfortable sharing silences with. The bridge, the Ganga, and the evening lights of Varanasi present a sight that is overwhelmingly beautiful yet endearing.

## Like a heartbeat

The trains rumbling over the bridge never fail to add to the picture. A rare phenomenon of a human innovation complementing nature's offering. When I walk on the bridge, I often put my ear to the panels, or my hand on the railing to hear, or just feel, the roar of the trains passing below. It's like the bridge's low and steady

heartbeat. Winters carry these sounds afar and they are a part of the early morning noises for the people staying in the vicinity.

Edwin Greaves in *Kashi the City Illustrious, or Benares* writes that "possibly there is not a city in the whole world which presents a more picturesque appearance than does Benares when viewed from the Ganges, or from the Dufferin Bridge." John Sergeant, during his 3,000-mile rail journey for the BBC documentary *Tracks of Empire*, talks of how the construction of the Dufferin Bridge at Varanasi resulted in Victorian technology and ingenuity clashing with ancient religion.

According to engineer F.T.G. Walton's 'The

**The bridge, the Ganga, and the evening lights of Varanasi present a sight that is overwhelmingly beautiful yet endearing**

**Double delight** It's called Double Decker Bridge because trains run on the lower level and the road runs above. WIKI COMMONS

Construction of the Dufferin Bridge over the Ganges at Benares', the bridge was sanctioned in July 1879, commenced in January 1881, tested in September 1887, and formally opened in December 1887. In *Indian Railways: The Weaving of a National Tapestry*, the authors (Bibek Debroy, Sanjay Chadha and Vidya Krishnamurthi) state that "the Dufferin Bridge connected the lines of the Oudh and the Rohilkhand Railway with those of the East India Company at Mughal Sarai."

## Super structure

The book also talks of Kipling's 'The Bridge Builders', a story believed to have been based on Dufferin Bridge although its description doesn't resemble the real one. A paper discussing railway bridges, published in *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers* in 1890, says, "The methods adopted for the erection of the superstructures of the Hawkesbury (another grand bridge built during those times - this in Australia) and Benares bridges, were in each case so admirably adapted to the circumstances, and were happily so successful, that it was not easy to suggest any modification which would have been an improvement." It adds that "Dufferin Bridge could claim to be the first bridge the superstructure of which was specified to be in steel." A document found in Krishnamurti Foundation India's campus at Rajghat says that the engineers who came to re-gird the bridge in the 1930s were stationed in the Foundation's then new campus.

During the rains, I have often walked the bridge, getting drenched and looking with wonder at the water flowing below, its colour always altering. On occasion, the rainfall hides the ghats completely from view. Some late evenings, I begin cycling and the wheels more often than not lead me to the bridge.

I often wonder if, after the construction of the new bridge, people can still have this one, at least the road part of it, for themselves. Maybe like a park of sorts, open to all, with possibly nothing more than a few benches. Will governments and bureaucrats give us this? Then, the old bridge can, like it has always done, continue at least one of its important tasks; that of connecting people.

The writer is a history buff and avid blogger.

# Notes from Delhi



BY NITIN CHAUDHARY

Delhi has changed so much and so rapidly in the last years that its evolution mystifies me. I wonder what its story is like.

The story of a city is not the definitive account found in history books. It is more like a loosely fused collage of impressions. A city shapes itself in everyone's mind, memory and imagination, and is often altered, battered and elevated by individual experiences. It's so with Delhi.

They say to understand Delhi, learn to survive the heat first.

The long summer of Delhi can melt even the strongest of spirits. It makes its presence felt in the sweat-dampened shirt, in the simmering air, bursting tyres, melted tarmac. As July nears, there's insanity in the air. People randomly shout at each other in the middle of narrow lanes, breathing out hot air like fire and cursing the world. Only the street dogs look calm as they lie immobile under the trees.

On the rare occasions when a few wisps of clouds appear on the horizon, the mood changes and a small cheer can be felt even on Delhi's throttled Ring Road. However, on most other days, it's the early morning breeze that provides much-needed respite.

## Random ride

On one such day a few weeks back, after spending a long night doing nothing, I picked up the bike for a random ride in the empty avenues of Lutyens' Delhi. At this hour, the sun was a diabolic fable, spoken about in whispers; the road looked twice as wide from the night before when it had been choked with traffic.

I rode my bike through AIIMS, and over the Aerodrome, now used only by hobbyists. Turning right into Lodhi road, I rode towards India Gate, where I took the first break. At this

**Emperor Shah Jahan dreamt his dreams of grandeur in the Red Fort and the Jama Masjid**

vacant hour, I stood facing India Gate with the Raisina Hills in the background. The wide corridors of power spoke to me of the relatively recent past, and of future promises.

After a cup of tea bought from the only vendor open at that hour, I biked into the heart of old Delhi, only a few kilometres from here but telling tales going back hundreds of years. The brick-stone redness sheathing this part of Delhi attests to its Islamic past. Emperor Shah Jahan dreamt his dreams of grandeur in the Red Fort and the Jama Masjid. In the vicinity of these structures lie Chandni Chowk, designed and established by Shah Jahan's daughter, Jahanara Begum.

## When the Turks ruled

Go back a few hundred years from Shah Jahan's time, and you will find yourself in the Delhi of the Sultanate times, with the Mamluks and Tughlaqs. Towards what is now called South Delhi stands Qutub Minar, unaccompanied and stoic, testifying to the times when the Turks ruled the city. It stands witness to the eccentricity of the king who ordered the entire capital to be shifted down south to Daultabad. The migration was a terrible mistake that killed most of the people who marched in the merciless heat without water.

In a true sense, Delhi is much older than India. Recent archaeological finds deepen the history of the city by a few thousand years. Digs point to an epic battle, which was probably the one about which the *Mahabharata* was written. Purana Qila was designed by Humayun - but can one also imagine it as the site of the Indraprastha Palace of the Pandavas, as the story goes?

As I stood sipping tea near Jama Masjid and watched the sun climb slowly up, I realised how Delhi has imprinted itself on my mind. The city would overwhelm anyone who sees it in the morning light when traces of gentleness are still left. Otherwise, Delhi vanishes every decade and reappears as a distorted version of the previous.

The writer is an adrenaline rush-seeking travel writer who lives in Malmö in Sweden.



# Easy like Sunday morning

The visionary starts with a clean sheet of paper, and re-imagines the world: Malcolm Gladwell

BY BERTY ASHLEY

On October 7, 1806, Pellegrino Turri, an Italian inventor, obtained a patent for his invention which helped in the working of his mechanical typing machine, one of the first typewriters. It was basically paper coated on one side with a layer of a loosely bound dry ink or pigmented coating, bound with wax. Though today it is almost non-existent abroad, in India these are still in use. A legacy from its previous global use exists online as an optional function in e-mail services. What was the invention and how is it present online?

Bibulous paper is the technical name of a paper often made of cotton and manufactured on special paper machines. Legend has it that a paper mill worker failed to add the compound that acts as a protective filler to a batch of paper they were making. This faulty batch was discarded but someone discovered it and found it completely useless for writing as the ink did not stay. This led them to re-sell it, advertising its new properties. What was this paper?

This is a high quality durable writing paper weighing greater than 50 g/m<sup>2</sup>. Its name comes from the fact that it was made for government documents. It is now used mostly for letterheads and is widely employed in graphic art studios for work involving pencil, pen and felt-tip markers. It is



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

typically made from old rags but also other cotton fibres as opposed to other papers which are made just of wood pulp. What is this paper?

This is a relatively inexpensive type of paper, generally made through a less refined process than other types of paper. It is made from semi-bleached wood fibres. The paper was originally made from old hemp ropes used on ships. These ropes were made from the Musa textilis plant which was a type of banana grown in a particular East Asian area which lent its name to the paper. What is this paper which is commonly used to make file folders?

Kami paper is made specifically for this art form, the requirement being that it must be able to hold a crease, but should also be thinner than regular paper for convenience when multiple folds over the same small area are required. 'Kami' in Japanese simply means 'paper'. What art form is this primarily used for?

This paper is made from the peeled dried pith of Tetrapanax papyrifer. This paper was used extensively in China as a support medium

for paintings sold to European clients. These clients spread the wrong information that it was made from another source plentiful in China, and hence it was given the name we know it by. Dyed papers are used for craft work and white papers are used for watercolour paintings. What is this paper which might sound edible but is not?

This paper is made to have low opacity, giving it a translucent quality. It is usually made from sulfite pulp by reducing the fibres to a state of fine subdivision and hydrolysing them by very prolonged beating in water. Pure cellulose fibre is translucent, and it is the air trapped between fibres that makes paper opaque and look white. If the fibres are refined and beaten until all the air is taken out, then the resulting sheet will be translucent. The paper gets its name from the main function it is used for. What is this paper?

X-Y paper is an eco-friendly version made with fibres from agricultural residue, fibre crops and textile waste. This leaves out a particular component which is usually the biggest part of paper. This is still a niche

product and not many newsprints use this. It gets its rhyming name from the absence of the source of that major component. What is its name?

In traditional animation, thin, translucent papers are used as guides in drawing the frames between key-frames. These papers have a particular name because they superficially resemble the thin papery skin of a vegetable and not because it is made from it. It even gives its name to the process in digital animation where frames are represented by digital layers in a production. What is the name which should remind you of a thankless task in the kitchen?

This moisture-proof paper has been in use since the Middle Ages. Initially, natural products were used to make it, then in 1876, Herman Frasch developed a way of purifying paraffin and using it. This paper is commonly used to wrap food items. Traditionally razor blades are also wrapped in these. DJs keep these papers under their records to increase slip and help in getting better scratches. What is this common but non-recyclable paper?

A molecular biologist from Madurai, our quizmaster enjoys trivia and music, and is working on a rock ballad called 'Coffee is a Drink, Kaapi is an Emotion'. @bertyashley

- Answers
1. Carbon paper; CC (carbon copies for sending to multiple addressees)
  2. Blotting paper
  3. Bond paper
  4. Manila Paper
  5. Origanum
  6. Rice paper
  7. Tracing paper
  8. Tree-free paper
  9. Onion skin
  10. Wax paper

## GOREN BRIDGE

### Careful ruffing



### Both vulnerable, South deals

BY BOB JONES

**NORTH**  
♠ J 4  
♥ A Q J 6 3  
♦ K 8 7 5  
♣ 9 3

**WEST**  
♠ K 10 9 6  
♥ K 7 5 4  
♦ Void  
♣ A Q 10 7 5

**EAST**  
♠ Q 8 5 3  
♥ 10 8 2  
♦ 6 3 2  
♣ K J 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 7 2  
♥ 9  
♦ A Q J 10 9 4  
♣ 8 6 4

The bidding:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1♣ Pass 1♥ 5♣ All pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

North-South were playing a popular modern convention – support doubles. South would have doubled at his second turn if he held three hearts, so North knew that a heart fit didn't exist when he jumped to five diamonds. West's double also made it seem that the heart finesse, if needed, was likely to work, so North made the aggressive jump to game.

South won the opening spade lead in hand with the ace and took a moment to plan the play. He needed to develop the hearts for two discards, so he led his heart at trick two and inserted dummy's queen when West played low. He continued with the ace of hearts, discarding a spade, and then ruffed a heart with his ace of diamonds. He drew one round of trumps with the queen of diamonds before leading the jack of diamonds and overtaking it with dummy's king. South led another heart from dummy and ruffed it with the 10 of diamonds. This felled the king and established dummy's jack of hearts as a winner.

Declarer now led his carefully preserved four of diamonds to dummy's seven, drawing the last trump. He cashed the jack of hearts and discarded his remaining spade. He then ruffed a spade and conceded two club tricks to the defence, but he had the 11 tricks that he needed. Nicely played!

## A-N-A-T-O-M-I-Z-E

### Golden opulence sundae

Gold paint-dipped sugar orchid, glacé fruit and golden almond dragées top it off

Served in a 23k gold leaf-lined \$300 Baccarat Harcourt crystal goblet

Melted Amedei Porcelana chocolate is swirled through the sundae

Three scoops of Tahitian vanilla bean ice cream further infused with Madagascar vanilla flecks

BY RAUL DIAS

Cutting a swathe of anticipation through the elegantly appointed room, the palpable sense of impending drama was laying itself thick. Seeing other tourists with camera phones poised and awestruck expressions pat in place, there was little doubt that we were in for a treat.

It was sheer happenstance that I found myself at the hallowed New York City café-cum-pâtisserie, Serendipity 3, in the chi-chi Upper East Side neighbourhood of Manhattan. That's the same place with the rather oxymoronic (but divine!) frozen hot chocolate that has put it on every hipster 'foodstagrammer's' top list.

There with three other friends to get my quarter share of the world's most expensive grilled cheese sandwich (\$214), little did I realise I'd soon be a spectator to an extravaganza that would make our shared sandwich seem as cheap as chips! With an average of just one order every month, the public assemblage of the \$1,000 Golden Opulence Sundae is pure theatre.

Three scoops of rare Tahitian vanilla bean ice cream – further flecked with Madagascar



COURTESY SERENDIPITY 3

vanilla straight from the pod – are placed in a Baccarat Harcourt crystal goblet lined with 23k gold leaf. Alternating each ice cream scoop is a luscious sauce made from melted Amedei Porcelana, one of the world's most expensive chocolate. The sundae is then given a shower of goodies like truffles of rare Chuao chocolate made from cocoa beans cultivated off the coast of Venezuela, golden almond dragées and glacé candied fruit from Fauchon in Paris.

Topping it all off is a dusting of actual American golden caviar harvested from the whitefish that lives in the Northern Great Lakes. But here, a salt-free version of the caviar, macerated in fresh passion fruit and orange juices along with a splash of Armagnac, is used. And if all that's not enough for you, more gold leaf is added. And a final garnish of an edible, gold paint-dipped sugar orchid crowns it, as it is placed in front of you with an 18k solid gold sundae spoon.

And yes, you can keep the goblet. But it's an emphatic "NO" to the golden spoon!

The Mumbai-based writer and restaurant reviewer is passionate about food, travel and luxury, not necessarily in that order.

## LETTER FROM A CONCERNED READER

### Why I didn't come first rank

Respected Sir/Madam,

During my childhood days, decades and decades ago, I was above average in studies. Other people used to come first rank and second rank and all. You will definitely find name of Mr. J. Mathrubootham in the top 10 rank, but why I did not come first rank?

Due to laziness? Never, if you look in my personal dictionary for the word 'work' you will find definition 'same as worship'.

Due to partiality behaviour of class teacher towards some boys in the class, maybe corruption is involved, I don't know, I don't want to spread rumours, but this was the reason? Maybe. No comments.

Due to lack of intelligence? Excuse me, who are you, don't cross boundaries. Maintain decorum please.

Sir/ Madam, I did not come first rank for one simple reason. Because non-stop studying means then where is the balance in life? I used to enjoy like anything but also study like anything. Good balanced lifestyle. Every working day, I went to school properly. Then on Saturday or Sunday sometimes in the morning, I saw morning show of film, or maybe in the noontime I saw noon show. Immediately afterwards I came home and did homework, prepared for exams and all. Prim and proper.

When my father asked me where did I go whole day, I immediately said library. From one angle it is a lie because actually I went to see *Digambara Samiyar*. But if you think from another angle, is not a film a library of human emotions and feelings and thoughts? So was it really a lie? Better to let it be. Agree to disagree.

#### Winning the Nobel

My favourite subject in school was science. One day my science teacher said something that I will never ever forget. Science teacher, his name is not coming to me right now, some name like Mr. Fernandes, he said, Mathrubootham, if you study like this every day for few years, one day you will win Nobel Prize.

Sir/ Madam, these days if you ask youths what is their lifelong dream, they will say what is dream, can you put dream on Facebook, never. Useless man, what Jambuvan period ideas you are talking. No time for dream, I have to put photo of sandwich on plate next to passport under coffee cup on wooden table on Instagram. So that people will think I am going on world tour but ac-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

tually I am living in Villivakkam in youth hostel and inside the sandwich is Kissan jam. Passport is expired. Jam also expired.

But because of science teacher, Mr. Marimuthu I think, for years and years, I had a dream of winning Nobel Prize. In the beginning I thought I will get Nobel Prize in physics or chemistry or something. Then my father said, *kanna* Mathrubootham, better you study economics, more scope is there. So then I thought ok, why not, economics also has Nobel Prize.

But after two or three weeks in economics class, I decided better to sit quietly in class and try to get Nobel Prize for peace.

After that, all Nobel Prize dreams and all gone. But new dreams came and today I am a happy retired bank employee. Still, every year without fail, when they announce Nobel Prize I will listen carefully and try to get full information. Yesterday, I was sitting and watching live video announcement of Nobel Prize for chemistry. Too much excitement. And then Mrs. Mathrubootham came and said, Mathrubootham, you don't understand a single word they are saying. Please go and buy curd and green chillies urgently.

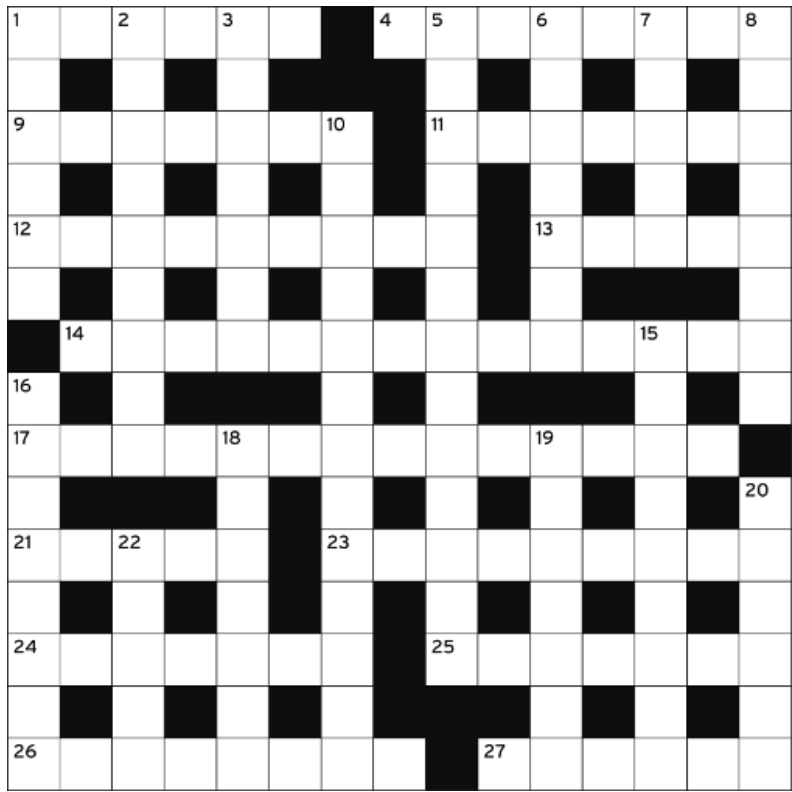
What to do. I went immediately. Sir/Madam, I know exactly what you are thinking. Mr. Mathrubootham, you wasted your youth dreaming about things like Nobel Prize and all. In the end you had to buy curd and green chillies, no?

Fine. But at least I have a house and pension and all no? What will youth of today dream about? Global warming and petrol price?

Maybe my science teacher was Mr. Moinuddin.

*Yours in old age satisfaction,  
J. Mathrubootham*

## THE SUNDAY CROSSWORD NO. 3016



#### Across

- 1 Love from scoundrel is hollow (6)
- 4 Disorder in retreat contained by skilful marshal (8)
- 9 Pal discarding clubs and diamonds? Odd routine (7)
- 11 Casual worker, bad at first(7)
- 12 Pavlova, say, almost immaculate, not available as part of range (9)
- 13 Fair copy initially accompanied by spare (5)
- 14 Cartoon character's not left friends in trouble (4,10)
- 17 Reliable element beginning to beat excessive protest back (6-8)
- 21 Member of dynasty bringing defeat about, seizing day (5)
- 23 Found spirit with answer during old ceremony (9)
- 24 Adherent of emperor in dire straits (7)
- 25 Tips in general due to be favourable (7)
- 26 Deception by artist in attempt to be perverse (8)
- 27 Poem shown in text at regular intervals (6)

#### Down

- 1 Area in ether unusually warm again (6)
- 2 Decline to support useless person? Sweet (5,4)
- 3 Grazed in fight before end, losing heart (7)

5 Hint on past got broadcast? Be ruthless (4,2,7)

- 6 Carries out belongings (7)
- 7 Restraint from cook about right (5)
- 8 Put at risk, destroy bug (8)
- 10 Good robot, see, working? It raises confidence (6,7)
- 15 Running exercises covered by speech (9)
- 16 Rapturous quote coming up about new cast (8)
- 18 Former king after attention with story (7)
- 19 Hunter mostly bearing north above Colorado river (7)
- 20 In hearing, stand by bias (6)
- 22 Tense, like match going to penalties? (5)

#### Solution No. 3015



## ECOTISM

BY ASHVINI MENON

